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SOLUTION TO PROBLEM OF LONG BRIDGE

TALKS are set to take place to remove once and for all one of the town's most notorious eyesores.

MP Hugh Robertson, Swale and Faversham councillors and Network Rail are all set to come together to tackle the graffiti problems which plague the Long Bridge – Britain's longest railway footbridge.

Councillors want to remove the panels on the side of the bridge which have been a magnet for spray-painted obscenities for several years.

The bridge over the railway links

■ BY NICK AMES

the town centre and Preston Street with residential areas north of the A2 including the Love Lane Estate and is used by many pedestrians on a daily basis.

But at night it is a place many avoid because of the gangs of youths who congregate there.

It is widely seen as a real blot on the landscape for the town.

Councillors say the removal of the panels – which do not support the structure of the bridge – is the only

way to get rid of the problem.

The first attempt to make the bridge more attractive saw artwork by local schools painted on the side. But this was defaced and Network Rail responded by painting the panels blue.

However, all this resulted in was the creation of a "canvas" for vandals.

Ward councillor and Swale's environment portfolio holder Cindy Davis said the situation is now worse than ever.

"The blue paint is peeling off and there are crude scrawls all over the place," she said.

"We contacted Mr Robertson and I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Picture SIMON ROBINSON

SNEAK PREVIEW OF CHRISTMAS PANTO

The magical cast of a Christmas pantomime came together for the first time this week – putting on an intimate preview of their production of Aladdin.

Former EastEnders actor Shaun Williamson (left) was the star turn at the Central Theatre teaser show in Chatham.

Williamson, who was born in Maidstone but lives in Selling, near Faversham, was joined by CBeebies' Mister Maker, otherwise known as Medway-born Phil Gallagher (above right), actresses Natalie Cleverley and Claire Huckle, and actor Paul Burling.

Star Trek's George Takei – who will take on the role of the Emperor of China – was unable to beam in from Los Angeles for the preview show but will arrive in Medway later this year for rehearsals.

FULL STORY ON PAGE 3.

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Speed cameras show no-one is above the law

EXCLUSIVE

BY SIMON ROBINSON

MORE than 20 petrolhead police officers have fallen foul of the county's eagle-eyed network of speed cameras in the past three years, it has emerged.

Figures released by Kent Police in response to a Freedom of Information request from KOS Media show 24 officers have received fixed penalty notices for exceeding the speed limit since 2007.

Nearly half of these notices were issued while the officer was on duty. On a further four cases it is 'not known' if the officer was on duty or not.

The law-breaking officers range in rank from PC to inspector and serve at forces across Kent, including Mid Kent and Force HQ in Maidstone.

Four officers from the Mid Kent division – which includes Maidstone and Swale – were fined for speeding in the last two years.

Two PCs were caught breaking the speed limit while on duty in May, 2007, then a sergeant was nabbed in October of that year, before a PC was caught in April this year speeding while off duty. Eight officers who work at the Force HQ in Sutton Road, Maidstone, were issued with fixed penalty notices during the same period.

This included two PCs on duty in October, 2007, three PCs and two inspectors in February this year, who were all off duty, and a PC in May this year, who was also off duty.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Adams said the true number of speeding officers was likely to be higher, as regulations requiring officers to report fixed penalty notices only came into effect last December.



SNAPPED: Cameras caught on-duty cops

He added: "It is important to recognise that where an officer with Kent police cannot provide a lawful reason for activating a safety camera, he or she will be issued with a fixed penalty notice or court summons."

"Our Kent Standard sets out the service and standards the public can expect from Kent police. Kent police has vigorous checks and balances to ensure officers drive lawfully. When they don't they face the same penalties as anyone else."

According to a spokesman for Speedcameras.org, the figures supported their call for speed cameras to be discontinued.

He said: "It's of no surprise to learn that police officers also exceed the speed limit, just like the other two million ordinary members of the public who get fined each year."

"It proves that even officers are just as likely to fall foul of the overzealous placement of speed cameras and mobile traps."

"If these professional upholders of law can wander above the speed limit then what hope do the rest of us have?"

"Speed limits should not be policed in such a cold, robotic fashion."

• Email yourmaidstone@kosmedia.co.uk

yoursware

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gardeners evacuated as bomb is detonated

A BLAST was heard all over the town the weekend before last when a bomb was detonated by Army experts.

Gardeners working in allotments near to Stonebridge Pond were told to leave while the explosive device was blown up in Faversham Creek on Sunday afternoon by members of the bomb disposal squad.

Police officers issued instructions to the allotment-holders just before experts blew up the device.

It is thought to be a bomb from the Second World War and it was discovered in the mud of the tributary leading to the pond at about 4.45pm.

Orchards a great day out, says TV crew

AMONG the visitors to Brogdale's Cherry Festival were a team from The Discovery Channel who are to make a programme about the fruit farm.

It is due to be broadcast in December as part of a Great Days Out series.

A total of 3,000 people, almost double last year's figure, attended the event where visitors were able to tour the orchards, and taste 50 varieties of cherries grown at the horticultural gardens near Faversham.

Food and craft stands were also popular as was a gun dog display.

Mobile vet clinic finds new home in car park

THE Lord Whisky Mobile Veterinary Clinic which used to operate from the Co-op in North Street, Faversham, has moved to a new location.

Following the closure of the store it will now be operating from the car park of Macknades Fine Foods, in Selling Road, Faversham, which is opposite the Shell petrol station.

Clinics will be held on Mondays August 3, 17 and 24, with those wishing to attend advised to arrive at 2pm to book in.

The service offers reduced rates for cat spraying if proof of low income is available from customers.

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Council boss sacking cost £230k legal bill

■ BY NICK AMES

THE row over the protracted and costly sacking of the previous chief executive of Swale council has taken a new twist.

Labour members have called on the ruling Conservative group to apologise for what they call the "mismanagement" of senior staff.

The move follows the revelation that more than £231,000 from council coffers was spent on legal fees during the process of removing the top man at the local authority.

Former chief executive Mark Bilsborough was eventually sacked after a long-running saga which started when he was suspended after complaints from other senior staff.

Following an interim appointment Abdool Kara has now assumed the role full time.

Labour leader Angela Harrison said the cost of the sacking was revealed at a meeting of the council last Wednesday.

She said: "Of course, this (the £231,000) only partly covers the true costs to the people of Swale. It is history now that these costs were incurred in the first place by the mismanagement of the chief executive's appointment and then by the mistakes made in resolving some of the issues.

"Our group asks people to consider how much more beneficial this sum of nearly a £250,000 could have been to the community.

"Perhaps we need not have been left out of the free-swimming programme, or maybe residents in Sittingbourne and Faversham need not have



LEGAL ROW: Labour councillors have called on Swale's Tories to apologise for alleged "mismanagement" of senior staff

had their residents' parking fees hiked. Add to that Swale has suffered from a lack of clear direction for far too long and the bungling over the recent chief executive has only added to this failing."

But Conservative leader Andrew Bowles said the cost was determined by necessary legal proceedings.

He said: "Once you get into the due legal process you have to pay the cost incurred.

"I don't think we had any great influence over the money which was spent when we got into the legal proceedings. In any case, the appoint-

ment was carried out with the full consultation of all the party leaders. From the moment this started they were kept fully informed.

"I accept that some of the backbenchers were not, but this was a necessary part of the procedure. Again this action was taken on legal advice."

Cllr Bowles also denied that services and council tax charges were affected in any way by the cash outlay.

"The legal costs came out of reserves available to us – not from money which was due to be spent on any projects," he said.

Forecast revives hope of barbecue summer at last

FAVERSHAM could this month lose its record for the highest temperature in the UK, according to weather forecasters.

The existing record is 101F (38.5C) set in the town on August 10, 2003.

But Met Office forecasters are predicting a heatwave in the second week of August – with the potential for the record to be reached or even passed.

Experts are predicting a late summer sunshine bonanza with soaring temperatures and sunny skies.

They say there is even optimism the long hot summer we were promised by forecasters earlier this year could finally arrive. And the chance of a heatwave by the second week of August is a distinct possibility with the mercury topping 90F (32C).

And the experts say it could go up from there making a new record UK high a real possibility.

Settle down

"Although it's too early to forecast what will happen during the whole month, as we head into August it looks like it will settle down," said Met Office forecaster John Hammond.

"There will be plenty of sunshine and things will dry out. Let's hope we can get up to those temperatures we enjoyed during Wimbledon fortnight and we may even see that barbecue summer yet."

Weather expert Jonathan Powell also predicts the poor weather will soon end.

"With the jetstream's position still unfavourable, the unsettled weather continues, although change may be on the horizon," he said.

And he has forecast Britain will bask in a heatwave by the middle of August.

"The second week of August is promising to potentially reach the warmest day on record," Mr Powell said.

It could be end of the line for railway bridge eyesore panels

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

understand he is in the process of setting up a meeting with Network Rail – and what we really want to see is the panels removed. It seems to be the only solution.

"A few years ago when I was mayor I saw how artwork had transformed other places with graffiti problems and thought the same could happen at the bridge.

"For a time it looked lovely, there were paintings of railway-themed subjects such as Stevenson's Rocket, but then they became defaced.

Unightly

"The bridge is now more unsightly than ever and removing the panels seems to be the only solution.

"We have had a lot of success in tackling the problems of graffiti in the town centre and some offenders have been caught.

"But I don't think anyone has ever been apprehended for defacing the bridge.

"There are three stairwells which make it easy for vandals to get away if they see someone in authority coming."



CURTAIN CALL: Shaun Williamson, centre, and Phil Gallagher, left, with Aladdin cast

Shaun's stellar show

THE cast of a Christmas pantomime came together for the first time for an intimate preview of their forthcoming production of Aladdin.

Former EastEnders favourite and Selling resident Shaun Williamson – Barry Evans in the BBC soap – was the star turn at the Central Theatre's teaser show in Chatham.

He was joined by Medway-born Phil Gallagher – Mister Maker from CBeebies – and actors Natalie Cleverley, Claire Huckle and Paul Burling. Star Trek's George 'Mr Sulu' Takei – who will take on the role of the Emperor of China – was unable to beam down for the preview

but will arrive from Los Angeles later this year for rehearsals.

Maidstone-born Mr Williamson said: "I'm relishing the chance to work with George and Phil. With an original member of the Star Trek crew, myself from EastEnders and Phil from CBeebies we have a broad appeal – something for everyone."

Aladdin runs from December 11 to January 3. Tickets prices start at £12.50 for adults and £8.50 for children with group offers and early booking discounts available.

For further information call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Battle of the bands set to get town rocking

THE biggest battle of the bands Herne Bay has ever seen needs more competitors.

The Herne Bay Rocks contest showcases the best home-grown musical talent. It will be bigger than ever this year.

The winners will perform on the festival's main stage as part of Rock Around The Clock on Saturday, August 29. Huge crowds are expected for headliners Chas & Dave. The best band will bag £500 worth of studio time and CDs.

Dogs and their owners invited to canine fun day

DOG lovers will flock to a canine fun day and dog show in Whitstable next weekend.

The event in aid of Dogs Trust Canterbury, is from noon to 4pm on Sunday, August 9 in the field opposite the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre, Radfall Road, Chestfield. Entry for adults is £3, those under 16 and OAPs can get in for £2, and entry for under-fives and dogs is free. For more information call 01227 792898.

Record attendance at annual beer festival

THE Kent Beer Festival has done better than ever despite the recession.

A record 6,000 people flocked to the event at Merton Farm in Canterbury.

The 35th festival boasted nearly 150 beers, as well as ciders and perry from all 14 Kent cider makers. There were almost 50 Kent beers representing ten Kent breweries.

Hopdaemon won beer of the festival with their ale Golden Braid.

Villagers celebrate as bus shelter is promised

VILLAGERS in Herne have finally been promised the bus shelter they have been campaigning for.

Locals had been fighting for a seat and shelter for the bus stop opposite Strode Park on the Canterbury Road. County councillor Alan Marsh has now promised a bus shelter within eight months.

Campaigner Oliver Gosnell said: "On behalf of the local residents I would like to thank the Herne and Broomfield parish council and the newspaper for their help."

'I never thought I could make a living like this'

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

FEW in comedy hold the public's attention for long enough to attain lasting success, but six-time Sony Award winning Dead Ringers' writer Jon Holmes seems to have cracked the formula.

And the Canterbury writer, broadcaster and comedian, who has written for everything from Have I Got News For You to Horrible Histories, still thinks highly of the city which helped him launch his broadcasting career.

He said: "I love Canterbury, which is why I've never moved away. I can work from home a lot, which is the joy of writing."

"All of my work really is in London, in terms of the performance side and the radio side."

"But even though Southeastern trains are awful, overpriced and terrible, and shoddy, and the seats are uncomfortable and rubbish, I do work on the trains so it's a kind of mobile office."

"I get a lot of work done on the trains so I don't mind the commute necessarily."

He is currently working on two books, a replacement for Dead Ringers featuring impressionist star Jon Culshaw, which will be on television in the autumn, and still finds time to host a regular slot on 6 Music.

Jon Holmes will soon be taking his one-man comedy show Rock Star Babylon to The Edinburgh Festival.

The affable comedian is often found making Whitstable seagull jokes on Radio 4's The Now Show or satirising Canterbury council's parking charges in The Sunday Times.

He came to Canterbury 20 years ago to study English with radio, film and television at Christ Church University.

He said: "While I was there I did the student radio station. When I left I worked at the Marlowe, doing sound and lighting."

"I made a half-hour comedy programme pilot thing, using Marlowe equipment, and sent it off to Radio 4. They liked it, and commissioned a series off the back of it, and it kind of went from there."

COMMUTER: Comedian Jon Holmes loves living in Canterbury, despite the 'shoddy, overpriced trains'

"I suddenly found out that, all those jokes I've got in my head about stuff, it turns out you can make a living out of it. I had no idea really, it didn't occur to me."

Jon Holmes' Edinburgh Festival show Rock Star Babylon runs from August 17 to 30 from 7pm at the Gilded Ballroom. To book, call 01316 226552.



Bakery is back in business

GARY Mogridge and his dad were stunned when the Burgate Bakery business they founded went bust just three years after they sold it.

Father Tony started the firm 40 years ago, selling it on when he retired in 2006.

But earlier this year, the new owner Dave Smith disappeared leaving unpaid bills and environmental health officers from two councils hot on his trail.

This time last year Mr Smith was fined more than £7,000 for breaching food hygiene laws.

But now the bakery is back in good hands. Tony's son Gary, 40, is turning the Whitstable Road branch, Canterbury, into a sandwich shop.

He said: "I worked in the bakery as a boy before going into it full time when I was 16."

Gary hopes the shop will reopen in a month.

He said: "We are going to have an area where people can have a cup of coffee and a chat."

"We will be making things on the premises instead of having stock brought in. We will be able to react to provide things people want."

The pair are hoping to get custom from new business and residential estates across the road plus passing trade.

Gary said: "I hope to build a good reputation so people can forget what happened in the last three and a half years."



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FUNDING CRISIS: Cats being brought to sanctuaries complete with a litter of kittens are adding to the problems

Abandoned pets falling victim to credit crunch

ANIMAL charities are reporting their worst year on record as funding dries up and increasing numbers of pets are abandoned.

Julie Dickson from Canterbury and District Cats Protection said: "This year has definitely been the worst on record. There has been a marked difference.

"It hasn't just been the usual cases of people moving and leaving their cats behind."

And it is not only cats. The Lord Whisky Animal Sanctuary in Stelling Minnis is having similar problems because of the downturn.

The organisation's founder, Margaret Todd MBE, said: "One of the biggest problems in people who are having their houses repossessed.

"They don't want to get rid of their pets but they can't find anywhere to rent where they can take animals with them, so more people are leaving animals with us."

According to the two sanctuaries, pets can often end up in their care with horrendous vet bills, as owners face the choice of putting animals down or giving them away.

Mrs Dickson said: "I think the record that we have paid to save the life of one cat has been £1,500.

"In the recession if people are facing that kind of bill, I'm afraid the cat is going to be

■ BY JENNY ARMSTRONG

the first one to be sacrificed when people need to provide a roof over their heads and feed the children."

And the pet charities are also facing massive funding shortfalls as the recession bites.

Mrs Dickson said: "We have increased the amount of fund-raising events we are doing this year because it has been so chronic, but they are not bringing in as much as they would have done.

"We recently had an open day which raised £150, whereas a similar event last year raised £400.

"And all this pressure comes right in the middle of kitten season, when cats which have not been neutered are being delivered to sanctuaries complete with a litter of kittens."

Both sanctuaries recommend taking out pet insurance to reduce the burden of unexpected vet bills, neutering or spaying pets to avoid unwanted offspring and microchipping animals so they can be returned.

If you are interested in adopting a rescue animal or making a donation, call the Lord Whisky Animal Sanctuary on 01227 863007 or Canterbury and District Cats Protection on 01227 266838.

Black not so lucky if you are a kitten

ABANDONED kittens need you to help them find a new home.

The Canterbury branch of Cats Protection wants to hear from anyone who can adopt a litter of adorable black kittens which were abandoned by their mother.

There are four female kittens and they would ideally be re-homed in pairs, or into a family which already has a friendly cat.

The cat charity would also like to re-home Bing, a territorial, outdoorsy black cat which needs a country home without other cats, dogs or small children.

According to Cats Protection, black cats



are especially hard to re-home, so help is needed.

Call 01227 360432 or go to www.canterburycats.org.uk

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Harassed by former lover

LEE Jones threatened to put a bullet in his ex-partner's head after he found out she was sleeping with his ex-brother in law.

Jones, 39, kept ringing Lucy Cummins at her home in Ennerdale, Faversham, on July 5, making repeated threats, Sittingbourne magistrates were told.

Jones, of Belmont Close, Whitstable, admitted harassment.

Jay Wickremasinghe, prosecuting, said Miss Cummins had disconnected the phone, but the answer phone kept recording. When she listened to it Cummins chillingly said: "Have a nice life. It won't be long."

Jeff Playford, defending, said Miss Cummins started her new relationship a few months after Jones's sister died of cancer.

He said: "She began to taunt him about the physical side of their relationship."

The case was adjourned for probation reports.

Bathers blown out to sea

HIGH winds gave bathers a scare on Sunday when four people were swept out to sea.

Two people in a dinghy were blown away from land near Swalecliffe.

The Whitstable lifeboat was called just after 2pm but a good Samaritan in a speedboat was already trying to tow the pair ashore. The lifeboat crew picked them up and returned them to the launching ramp from Seaview Caravan Park in Swalecliffe.

As they were being set ashore the lifeboat received details of a 999 call reporting two more people being blown seawards.

Two girls, aged 14 and 15, had been left stranded nearly half a kilometre out to sea in an inflatable dinghy and a rubber ring.

The girls were taken aboard the lifeboat and returned to their anxious parents.

Boy rescued from tree

A BOYS tree-climbing evening had unintended consequences when fire-fighters had to be called to help him.

The 12-year-old had scaled a tree in Brook Close, Greenhill, near Herne Bay, but then found he couldn't get back down again.

Fire crews were called and arrived at 9pm last Wednesday and the lad was helped down the tree with an extension ladder.

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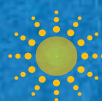
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Cycles & Tandems
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(close to M&S car park)



Bungee Trampoline, Carousel & Duck Race
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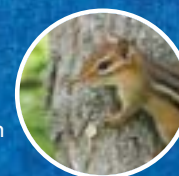
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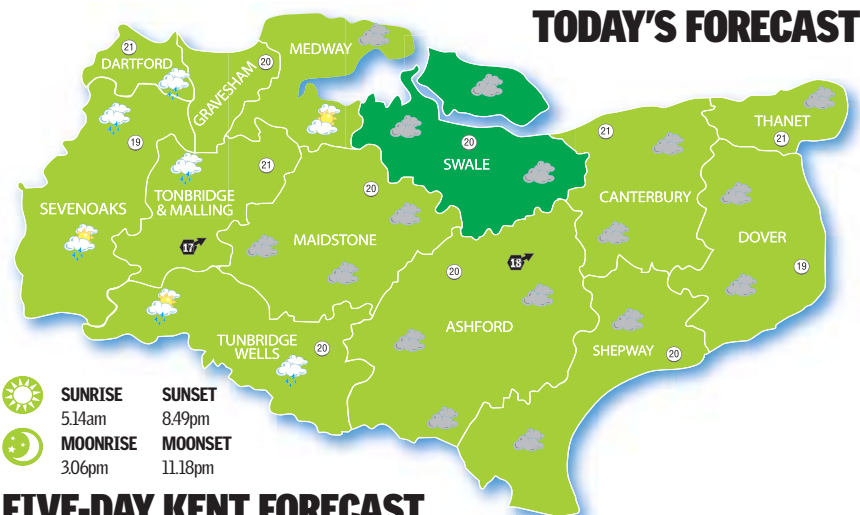
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Chatham	Saturday	9:49am	4.8m
	Sunday	11:05am	4.9m
Dover	Saturday	8:26am	5.3m
	Sunday	9:34am	5.5m
Dungeness	Saturday	8:06am	5.9m
	Sunday	9:11am	6.0m
Ramsgate	Saturday	8:56am	4.0m
	Sunday	10:04am	4.2m
Sheerness	Saturday	9:37am	4.7m
	Sunday	10:53am	4.8m
Whitstable	Saturday	9:34am	4.4m
	Sunday	10:51am	4.5m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	21°C	Madrid	34°C
Athens	31°C	New York	28°C
Barcelona	29°C	Paris	17°C
Beijing	28°C	Rome	30°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	16°C
Cape Town	25°C	Tenerife	31°C
Cardiff	16°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	30°C	Vancouver	24°C
Hong Kong	31°C	Warsaw	21°C
Las Palmas	28°C	Wellington	8°C



Play Rangers to make the holidays more fun

SWALE has four Play Rangers tasked to carry out sporting and arts activities across the borough during the next two years in school holidays.

The Play Ranger Scheme will offer sports and play activities in 20 parks and recreation grounds until Friday, August 28, this summer.

Play Rangers, pictured, who are fully trained and vetted, will be organising activities including Kwik Cricket, basketball, target games, face painting, and arts and crafts.

Twenty places will be available, subject to a registration form being filled out by parents.

Usually children aged between four and 12 attend although older children are welcome.

Parishes or friends' groups interested in the scheme coming to their area should call Helen Blanche or Alan Marolia on 01795 417529.

Each Tuesday there will be events in Sittingbourne and Sheerness, on Thursdays activities will take place in Iwade, Kemsley and on the Isle of Sheppey, while Friday will see the group in action in Teynham and Sittingbourne.

Each Monday there will be events in Faversham Recreation Ground and in North Preston, while Friday will also see activities in The Mount.

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	21°C	Gravesend	23°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	22°C
Canterbury	21°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	Maidstone	20°C	20°C	20°C	21°C	22°C
Chatham	21°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Ramsgate	21°C	21°C	20°C	21°C	22°C
Dartford	23°C	21°C	21°C	21°C	22°C	Rochester	21°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Dover	18°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Sevenoaks	19°C	19°C	18°C	19°C	20°C
Faversham	21°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Sittingbourne	21°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C
Folkestone	18°C	19°C	19°C	19°C	20°C	Tonbridge	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	21°C
Gillingham	21°C	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	Tun Wells	20°C	20°C	19°C	20°C	21°C

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QUESTION & ANSWER

MARGARET BOWERMAN



Q Can you tell us about your position?

A I volunteer as a driver for the social car scheme, which involves helping to take people to and from hospital, doctor, dentist and other essential visits.

I also work as a volunteer befriender, visiting a housebound person in their home to keep them company. This could be meeting people who are disabled, or elderly, and giving them a vital lifeline to the outside world.

My third role within CVS is as a volunteer receptionist one morning a week.

Q What are your responsibilities?

A My driving role involves making sure people get to the destination in time for appointments and get home safely.

Where people need a little more assistance I may need to help them, for example, find out where in the hospital they need to go.

In reception I need to direct people to correct places for meetings, direct phone calls to the correct staff members, take messages for staff and give verbal information about our work or give leaflets for specific jobs. I am also a friendly face for anyone who drops in.

Q What do you like most about your work?

A I enjoy meeting a variety of different people in all my roles, particularly in the driv-

ing role where there is quite often a journey of half an hour or more, which gives us a chance to chat and sometimes to help calm the client if they are nervous about hospital visits.

I find it a really rewarding position.

Q What is the single most important thing you have worked on?

A Everyone's needs are important but I think possibly the most difference I made was a lady I once met in my driving role.

I took her up for a hospital visit as a result of a non-accidental eye injury.

When she needed to go to Maidstone the next day for further treatment I was able to arrange to go with her as a driver so that she had a familiar face with her to help her and not another stranger.

Because of her circumstances I felt that I had made a great difference to her and I certainly think she welcomed having the same person to take her twice.

SWALE Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) in Sittingbourne helps people who would like to do voluntary work. The service opened in 1972 and offers advice and placements to people interested in becoming volunteers and advice, training and support to organisations looking for volunteer help. The centre, in Central Avenue, can put people in touch with dozens of community or voluntary organisations. Swale CVS also runs the social car scheme, to help people

Q How do you enjoy living in Swale?

A I enjoy living in Swale because generally people where I live tend to be friendly. I find quite a lot to do through church and my church choir.

Because I drive I don't find transport a problem, but I know others do, particularly in the evenings. There is a great variety of opportunities in terms of societies to join in the area and there are a lot of like-minded people to meet through these societies to share your interests with.

Q How do you relax?

A At home I relax mainly by watching television and reading. I sometimes listen to classical and religious music. I also sing with a choir and I attend church regularly.

I also swim for relaxation and exercise, which I love.

who have trouble using public transport to get to healthcare appointments.

The CVS' befriending scheme has also proved massively popular since it was introduced, and puts lonely and vulnerable people in touch with new 'friends' who can pop in for a cup of tea once or twice a week.

For more information call 01795 473828. The CVS also has an office in Faversham - call 01795 591015 for details

Q & A

The volunteer for Swale Council for Volunteer Services' social car scheme spoke to **Emily Hall** about helping out as a driver, a befriender and a receptionist once a week for the community service

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Watch Food for Kent's Doug Wanstall speaking to Yourkenttv. Search 'county'.



The Kingfisher Trust runs boat trips for disabled people. Search 'Kingfisher'



Highlights of this year's Lounge on the Farm music festival. Search 'Lounge'



Skanska unveils its Learning Garden at the Kent County Show. Search 'learning'

EDITOR'S CHOICE

You can view all these videos and others from around the county with the click of a mouse at...

yourkenttv.co.uk

Cancer charity wants our readers to kick-start £8m fund-raiser

Search is on to find the owner of the county's Ugliest Mug

A CHARITY has today launched a hunt for the Ugliest Mug in Kent to kick-start one of the biggest fund-raising events in Britain.

But before you take offence and start arguing the virtues of inner beauty – they're not interested in your faces.

Macmillan Cancer Support wants to find the most quirky or bizarre drinking mug in the county.

For the Ugly Mug Amnesty, which it is launching today backed by KOS Media, it wants you to dig out old mugs lurking at the back of your cupboards or being used to hold toothbrushes in the bathroom.

When you've found your Ugliest Mug, take a photo of you holding it by your face and email it to the address at the end of this story.

Also make sure you tell us if it has an interesting history or funny story behind how it

■ BY JON COATES

came into your possession. Every week we'll choose an Ugly Mug of the Week, which we'll put on our websites.

So try to make sure we can see the mug clearly in your photo and include your name, age, address, job and contact details.

Encouraged

Then a week before Macmillan Cancer Support's World's Biggest Coffee Morning on Friday, September 25, we'll choose and publish the winner of the Ugly Mug Amnesty.

The winner will receive a World's Biggest Coffee Morning Mug from Macmillan Cancer Support and a £50 Coffee Gift Set from KOS Media.

Laura Thornton, Macmillan Cancer Support's fund-raising manager for Kent, said:



GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS: Nurse Josie Richards (left), and radiographers Brenda Manktelow (right) and Steve Dann (centre), who all work for Macmillan, helped launch the Ugly Mug Amnesty and The World's Biggest Coffee Morning.

"An Ugly Mug Amnesty has never been done before, but everyone has a mug lurking at the back of their cupboard with a story behind it.

"We want to ask people to send in pictures of their mugs and tell us the history behind them."

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's flagship fund-raiser.

Now in its 19th year, it has become one of the biggest fund-raising events in Britain along with Children in Need and Red Nose Day.

Macmillan asks the public to host or attend a coffee morning, with all donations going directly to those affected by cancer.

Supporters are encouraged to visit www.macmillan.org.uk/coffee to register and pick up fund-raising tips, or call 0845 602 1246. Make sure you enter the code RNA 10 so Macmillan know you are a KOS Media reader.

Last year the World's Biggest Coffee Morning raised £7.5 million and the target this year is more than £8m nationwide.

But we are calling on all our readers to help make Kent the biggest fund-raiser in the country. We'll be holding a coffee morning for staff on September 25 and urge businesses across the county to join in too.

Macmillan has 120 health professionals active across Kent helping patients and their families deal with cancer.

Their support means people do not have to face harrowing ordeals on their own.

All entries into the Ugly Mug Amnesty must be received by Friday, September 11, with the winner announced in the Wednesday, September 16 papers.

But you don't have to wait till then – get your entries in to be crowned Ugly Mug of the Week and see yourself on our websites.

Send your entries by post to Jon Coates, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, TN25 6SR, or email them to jon.coates@kos-media.co.uk.



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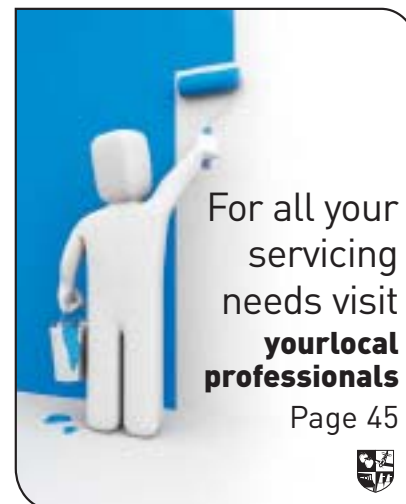


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Regulator tells water firms to drop prices

WATER companies in Kent could be forced to slash bills by as much as ten per cent over the next five years.

The industry regulator Ofwat published its draft responses to firms' business plans last week, with all five providing water and sewerage services in Kent told to either cut or freeze the amount they expect customers to pay.

Homeowners served by South East Water could see their bills go down by an average of six per cent by 2015 – or from £170 to £160 – compared with the £48 increase proposed by the company.

The draft response also calls for Southern Water bills to go down by an average of two

■ BY STEVE KNIGHT

per cent to £373 (£426 proposed), while customers served by Veolia Water Southeast – formerly Folkestone and Dover Water – could see reductions of ten per cent, down to £177 (£226 proposed).

All calculations are before inflation.

Draft

Karen Gibbs, the Consumer Council for Water's policy manager for London and the South East, welcomed Ofwat's recommendations.

She said: "It looks like good news for customers. Ofwat appears to be saying the compa-



DROP IN THE BUCKET: Water industry regulator Ofwat has told companies their planned price hikes are unacceptable

nies can deliver good services without having to increase bills as much as proposed in their business plans.

"Now the companies and the CCW will have to look at where Ofwat has challenged investment proposals to see how that will impact on services and whether it will alter the amount spent on what customers see as priority areas.

"This is the first time the CCW has been involved in price setting and we were aware huge price increases would not be welcome in the current economic climate."

Four of Kent's five water companies released statements on Thursday saying they had noted Ofwat's draft response and would consider its views ahead of a final decision in November.

But Thames Water reacted angrily to the report. The company wanted to increase its average bills by 17 per cent to £356 by 2015 but has instead been asked to keep them stable.

Chief executive David Owens said: "Initial indications suggest the draft may not allow us to deliver what customers want.

"For example, this means we won't be able to reduce leakage at all over the next five years."

Ofwat chief executive Regina Finn said: "We understand times are hard and have listened to customers. They want a safe, reliable water supply at reasonable cost.

"Our decisions allow efficient, well-run companies to invest in the right place at the right time for the right price."



ON THE RUN: Nigel (left) and Adam, with Natalie Court of Cancer Research UK

Michelle's friends are going the extra mile

TWO friends have pledged to run 10k to help a friend battling cancer for the third time.

Adam Dudley and Nigel Scott will tackle the Leeds Castle 10k run in September in support of Michelle Borrett, who was diagnosed with skin cancer 18 years ago.

Michelle, 38, who lives near the pair in Walderslade, had a cancerous mole removed when she was 20.

After being told the cancer hadn't spread, she went on to marry Gary and

have a daughter, Grace, now eight, but in spring 2005 Michelle found a lump in her groin and investigations revealed the cancer had returned.

Despite surgery to remove 22 lymph nodes, Michelle has now been told the cancer has spread to her brain and the future looks uncertain.

The two friends – who admit they are not natural-born runners – will run the Cancer Research UK event on Sunday, September 27, in the picturesque grounds of the castle, near Maidstone.

Adam, 43, an IT support analyst, said: "I admit I'm not the most active person. Training for the 10k is the first real exercise I've undertaken in more than ten years, which goes some way to showing how important this is to me."

Cancer Research UK's Run 10k is one of a series of 43 fundraising events in the UK this autumn. It is hoped 2,000 participants will enter the Maidstone event to hit the fundraising target of £138,654. To sponsor Adam or Nigel, visit www.run10kspansorme.org/adamdudley.

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Students say goodbye with one last dance



DRESSED TO IMPRESS: From Left: Shanice Couchman, Desmond Khumalo, Duke Granger, Chloe Field, Josie Street, Makhosi Phuti, Khadija Davies, Laura Oswell and Patrice Crispin stepped out in style for their prom

A COLLEGE'S prom began in familiar style with students wearing stunning outfits arriving escorted by their parents.

But there was just one new addition – all the guests wore masquerade masks.

Students and their families were welcomed by staff at Sittingbourne Community College with a champagne reception, hosted by Clare Bush from the catering team, and live music provided by talented students.

There was a sense of anticipation from the guests as the prom team kept up its tradition of keeping the location a secret from everyone, and votes were secretly cast by all to determine the prom royalty.

A special announcement was made over the PA system by receptionist Mary Roberts to start the evening by asking guests to board the coaches. It was to be one of her last duties, as she retires this year after giving 34 years of service to the college, and previously St John's School for Boys.

Luxury transport was provided by Buzz Lines to The Weald of Kent Golf Club, set in the heart of the Kent countryside at Headcorn. Guests were welcomed at the golf

■ BY NICK AMES

club by the prom team and escorted to the red carpet where they were welcomed by more than 80 members of staff and greeted by headteacher Alan Barham.

With blue skies and plenty of sun, the venue stood out as one of the best visited, with well kept lawns, small lakes and stunning flowers set against the backdrop of the Kent countryside.

Throughout the evening, guests were entertained by the walking performers with magic tricks and illusions, led by Thom Harrison, and the eye-catching evening dress was captured by photographer John Hall.

As the sun set the ceremony for the prom royalty began, with Sam Gambell and Storm Marshall winning the votes for prom king and queen, and Jack Cooper and Charlotte Cross named prince and princess.

As the crowning came to an end, the prom finale started with a bang as a musical firework display gave a magical moment for all to remember.

With only a short time left, goodbyes were made and the final dance of the evening held as the year group came together for the last time.

BREAK TIME



Primary graduation for youngsters

A NURSERY in Sittingbourne held its end of year graduation ceremony with MP Derek Wyatt as the guest of honour.

The Class of 2009 of Activeplay Nursery in High Street, Milton Regis, comprising 19 children, will all be moving on to primary schools in September.

Mr Wyatt, Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, handed the children their graduation scrolls.

The children all made their own mortar board hats and wore black graduation

gowns – or more accurately one of their parent's black T-shirts – for the event.

Parents were invited to attend for the afternoon, and following the scroll giving, the children enjoyed a visit from a pet zoo.

Nursery owner Jackie Curtis feels the occasion is important in marking the children's transition to "big school".

She said: "We are always so sad to see the children leave, many of whom we've known since they were babies. But going to school is the start of an exciting new adventure."



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yourswaleblogger

Each week we get a mystery writer to air their views on living in Swale...

Human interaction has been stolen by modern technology

JUDGING humanity while in a queue at Tesco is not the most life-affirming activity, but this week I found myself – plastic-packaged houmous, rocket salad and avocado in hand – in that very position.

It amazes me that we seem to have stripped day-to-day life of human interaction.

We have reached the end of the self-service decade – in banks, supermarkets, in the driver's seat, on buses, while juggling our iPhones, MP3s, sat-navs and other unfathomable electronic gadgets that tell us whether we need to take more steps, eat more fruit, turn left, breathe...

"Please insert your credit or debit card" comes from eight checkouts, while a bland-sounding robot with no discernable accent drones "incorrect item" in the bagging area, while one girl (who cannot be more than 16 but is very much alive) sits as a puppet-master, chewing gum, watching over these

automatic time-saving machines. It won't scan your pasta salad, madam? Please enter authentication code. The machine understands the barcode.

This march of technology has become more of a sprint. I remember at the end of the 1990s, in sixth form, a friend telling me that her phone could send texts (TEXTS?) if you just typed what you wanted to say on the screen.

In a very short space of time we have become nothing more than ASL, CYAL8R, B4N.

We scan our own salads, marvel at paying in cheques through a shiny silver slot, interact with each other through a series of scrambled letters and numbers. Why? To save time, of course! But time for what?

A week ago I stood at London Bridge station, where a sign told me I must buy my ticket before boarding or run a gauntlet of fines.

Drivers no longer chat, take your money or comment on the weather. They drive. That is their title and that is what they do.

I asked a question about my stop and the driver (note, no conductors anymore, automat-

ic devices can save a year's salary) said "The bus will tell you". Minutes later, far too close to a man who had never heard of deodorant, I find the bus speaks. Again, that blindest of accents warns you when your stop is near.

Soon the buses will be driverless, navigating the city's streets using magnets embedded in the road. Passengers will determine their pick-up point using Bluetooth technology. And that is not Orwellian thinking. That is fact.

And so I wonder what it would be like to go back a decade, before the internet (how did we ever do anything before that?) before mobile phones, before everything had been over-complicated in an effort to over-simplify.

Progress is unending and corresponds to our view that we are endlessly perfectible.

Yet from my position in the supermarket queue, I would choose imperfection in the blink of an eye.

EDITOR'S NOTE: All blogs are supplied with full name and address of the authors. They do not reflect the view of the newspaper but are designed to give our readers the chance to air their views.

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If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the acting editor **Jon Coates** on 01303 817048, or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Swale blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 500 words) and email it to the editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourswale.co.uk.

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adventurous with the entire Maille® range to spice up their summer menus.

To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Maille Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is August 7, 2009.

Question: What year was Maille established?

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TALK TIME

STEVE O'GORMAN

Reporter Jenny Armstrong talks to the president of the University of Kent's Anime Society about his passion for the Japanese animation



What's so good about anime?

What really separates anime, or Japanese animation, from British or American cartoons is the sheer broadness of what's on offer. There are shows and films for all age groups, covering every type of story; action, romance, horror and even cookery! It also maintains an emphasis on hand-drawn animation, which is becoming lost as more emphasis is placed on computer-animation.

What got you interested in it?

After growing up with American cartoons, I began to take notice of anime for the darker, more grown-up stories, like Katsuhiro Otomo's Akira. Initially I had to seek out new shows or films on my own, but joining the Anime Society allowed me to become more aware of what was available.

Can you watch too much anime?

I've never actually had the free time or the mental focus to sit through one of our society's mammoth weekend showings. Watching a complete 14-hour series back to back is probably quite an experience, particularly if it is anything like Evangelion – complex, intensely psychological and with an ending that doesn't really make sense!

What anime do you like?

I'm a huge fan of Hayao Miyazaki, a film-maker who has received a lot of praise outside Japan for making big, sweeping, colourful films with strong, moral stories.

YOUR LETTERS

Force backs recruitment of gypsies to end mistrust

GYPSIES and travellers are being recruited by Kent Police to ensure the force represents the community it serves. Officers believe that by giving jobs to people from the minority group they will be able to smooth what is often a rocky relationship between the two sides.

Forcing the issue over PC correctness

Yet again we have Kent Police behaving in a politically correct manner.

The latest move is to recruit gypsies and travellers to ensure that their views are taken on board.

It's okay in principle – but am I the only person who thinks that far too much is done to look after the interests of these groups.

It is no wonder that people get resentful when these people are singled out for extra help.

No-one looks to make sure that the views the vast majority of people who are law abiding citizens are given such preferential treatment.

This is another example of the blatant box ticking which goes on at the moment in an attempt to curry favour with politicians who don't care about the vast majority of people and are only concerned with appearing "right on".

Colin Slaney, from Faversham, by email.



COMMENT ONLINE TOO

NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

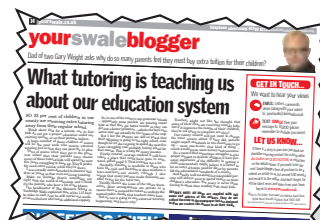
Beneath most stories on the www.yoursware.co.uk website there is the facility to leave your comments on whatever YOU thought of the online article. To leave your remarks, simply click on the 'Add your comments' link and tell us what you think. And remember, www.yoursware.co.uk is updated daily, bringing you the latest, breaking news from across Faversham, Sittingbourne, Sheerness and all the villages in Swale.

We will include the best on these pages too – ensuring your comments reach the widest possible audience. In addition, if you find your newsagent, supermarket or petrol station runs out of Yoursware before you've picked up your copy, you never need to miss out.

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Don't treat tutors as babysitters

I read the blog on tutoring by Gary Wright in last week's Yoursware with interest and feel I should address a couple of points.



Firstly, he's worried about the safety of tutors. I can inform him they have recently been asked to cough up £64 for a registration scheme that includes police checks.

However, what guarantee of security is that? All it proves is the person hasn't been caught yet.

The best way to make sure your child is safe is not to treat the tutor like a glorified babysitter, but to make sure you are present or at least within earshot for your child's lessons.

Secondly, he seems to feel there are parents who use tutors as a substitute for spending time with their children.

In my experience, this is not true. The parents who make the sacrifices to pay for a tutor care deeply about their offspring. I do agree, though, that the level of private tuition is an indictment of the education system.

It's got to the point where I wonder what on earth kids do in school all day.

Caroline Brown, by email

What's wrong with helping your kids?

I am one of your reviled private tutors. I would not be in gainful employment if it wasn't for the deplorable state of the greater part of our country's education system.

I am only helping students to attain a far better grade, even if in your mind this grade is inflated.

When schools (even grammars) have young and inexperienced teaching staff, it is little wonder parents opt to spend to help their children.

Many a time I have heard from



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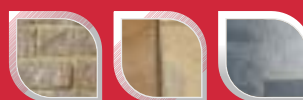
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Award Winning Company

parents tales of woe, all to often highlighting the state of educational provision. At this point I will add that I do not tutor students younger than 13 or 14, and I do not necessarily agree that tutoring four-year-olds is a good idea.

With reference to your point about getting 11-year-olds into grammar school.

There would not be such a clamour for places if the remaining state schools (and this does not include heavily over-subscribed voluntary-aided schools) were seen to be of sufficient calibre.

Unfortunately, for whatever reason, there are a number of schools in every LEA which suffer a bad name and reputation, and the causes of this can be manifold.

Little wonder then that any well-meaning parent wants to see their children succeed at their full potential. As for CRB checks, I have had to get one done in the past, but as a self-employed person it is almost impossible to get such a check carried out on oneself.

Most tutors have nothing to hide and are very often school teachers earning extra in their spare time.

Such tutors already have a CRB check in place.

Clive Brown, comment posted on blog at www.yourswale.co.uk

Parental potential

The other way of looking at this, is that parents are simply helping their children to reach their full potential, rather than artificially

boosting their results as you seem to imply.

Why on earth should parents not spend their money improving their children's educational attainment?

Only some kind of damn communist would think that was a bad thing.

P Cook, comment posted on blog at www.yourswale.co.uk



The BNP is right up bigot blogger's street

I don't believe you. Are you black or are you Indian? No, I think you're just a small-minded bigot who oozes bitterness.

The BNP is just the right party for you. I recommend you join it and become a regular attendee at their meetings. You'll find plenty of extremists there who share your views.

You never know, if you scare enough people you might become a councillor.

Oh sorry, then you'd have to do something for someone else rather

than worrying all the time about your own petty life.

Europe and the rest of the world are out there by the way. It doesn't bite.

Simon Haydon, comment posted on blog at www.yourswale.co.uk

You need to get real

Since when did councillors have to do something for someone else? I'm amazed at Mr Haydon's comments.

I would say they were almost racist and perhaps he, in his small-minded little world, should get real.

Paul, comment posted on blog at www.yourswale.co.uk

We're not racists, we just want equality

Hear hear! But I think you suspected, and I thought too, that someone would jump and scream 'racist' at you and indeed someone is recommending that you join the BNP for your views.

Unfortunately, 'racist' is the tag given to a lot of people who are just fed up of the one-sidedness of the situation here in the UK.

I applaud your views, and before someone screams racist at me, which they will, just so you know, I share my home with a British-born Pakistani guy who also agrees with you.

Enya Whittle, comment posted on blog at www.yourswale.co.uk

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Star line-up for festival

Even the organisers can't believe their luck as Gary Numan and The Blackout prepare to rock the front

HEVY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Saturday, August 1
Folkestone seafront

TOP names in alternative music will head for the sea-side this weekend for the first Hevy Music Festival.

Feeder, Ash, Gary Numan (left), Hundred Reasons, Attack! Attack!, Sonic Boom Six and In Case Of Fire are just some of the artists who will rock Folkestone seafront on Saturday.

The second stage, organised in association with Sonic Heights, will feature a dream line-up of bands for anyone who loves rock.

The Blackout have also been added to the line-up, which is exciting news for music fans as the six-piece from Merthyr Tydfil are one of the biggest up-and-coming bands around.

James Dutton, co-founder of Hevy, said: "The band are touring in the US at the moment before flying back to headline a stage at Reading and Leeds, and now they're coming to Kent for the Hevy Music Festival," he said. "These guys are huge."

Kerrang Award nominees The Ghost Of A Thousand have been named one of the top five metal bands in Q Magazine. They will be appearing alongside After The Ordeal, Cancer Bats, Farewell City, One Day Elliott and The Startover.

Fans can look forward to performances by Amber Room, Eleven: Eleven, LightsGoBlue, Sharks, We Are The Ocean, The Xcerts, Elephants, Kingskin, Mexico Fallz, Heartbreak and More Than Normal.

Mr Dutton revealed how pleased he was to have attracted such a stellar line-up, particularly the King of Synth Pop, Gary Numan.

"Gary Numan is a true living legend and we can't quite believe we've managed to book him for the first-ever Hevy Music Festival. I'm going to be seriously star-struck!" he said.

"We set out to create an Alternative Music Festival for Kent to distinguish ourselves from the other great festival in this corner of the UK. Mr Numan has been credited with



paving the way for the Alternative genre back in 1979 and has directly influenced many of the biggest acts in the world today.

"To have him and his live band performing on our main stage as the sun sets over the ocean is going to be spectacular – we can't wait."

The festival will take place on the site of the former Rotunda vintage amusement park on the seafront, with its stunning views of the English Channel.

Gates open at 1pm and tickets cost £48. Book online at www.hevy.co.uk, or buy tickets in person from the Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, The Marlowe Theatre box office in Canterbury or the Winter Gardens in Margate.



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KIDZ TALENT QUEST

Monday, August 10 and Tuesday, August 11
Central Park Stadium,
Sittingbourne

TALENTED youngsters will have the chance to show off their skills by taking part in Kidz Talent Quest.

Singers, actors, dancers and models aged from five to 17 are invited to enter the competition which will stage a heat in Sittingbourne, as well as visiting venues in Manchester, Royston and London.

The Grand Final will be held in the Circus Tavern at Lakeside in Essex, where the judging panel will feature casting directors, agents, Bizzykidz agency clients and photographers.

There will also be special guest appearances by Ashley from Britain's Got Talent winners Diversity and



Kent's own Cheryl Baker.

Run by the Bizzykidz Child Model Agency owner Debi Clark, the competition will raise money for Kidney Research UK. One of Clark's nine-year-old models suffers from kidney disease, so part of the registration fee will be donated to the charity.

Exciting experiences will be on offer as prizes for each category and all entrants have the chance to win a weekend break on a yacht in Marbella.

Registration fees start at £5 for individuals.

To register your child visit www.bizzyeventz.com.

MOTHER SWEETAPPLE

Friday, July 31
St Augustine's Abbey,
Canterbury



THE passage of time will bring great changes in the Rude Mechanical Theatre Company's latest production, Mother Sweetapple.

In 14th century Tuscany, a girl in a powder blue dress is wandering in a field of sunflowers when she encounters Filippo, the hot-headed son of a local landowner, and he attempts to seduce her.

He leaves the area and returns many years later, now a rich merchant, to find a woman in his path. Mother Sweetapple has been locked in a walled garden for 21 years, but who is she?

Described as being part-fairy tale, part detective story, the story uncovers the woman's true identity and discovers how time can alter perceptions and values.



Inspired by the various depictions of women and men in fairy tales, this hilarious, poetic and challenging play explores how these stories still affect the way in which both genders are viewed today.

The grounds will be open for picnics from 6pm and the performance starts at 7.30pm.

To book tickets call the box office on 01323 501260 or visit the website at www.rudemechanicaltheatre.co.uk.

BRENDON BURNS AND ADAM HILLS

Thursday, July 30
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



GET two top comedians for the price of one when Adam Hills and Brendon Burns share the bill.

The Australian comics will be previewing their new Edinburgh Festival Fringe shows this week. Having been nominated for the former Perrier Award three times, Hills is no stranger to world-class comedy and he has won much acclaim for his uplifting material. With his winning combination of one-liners, stories and audience participation, Hills looks set to enjoy another good run at this year's festival.

Controversial material and an aggressive stage presence have earned Burns a strong reputation as a sharp, shocking and refreshingly honest stand-up comedian. In the attempt to challenge his own thought processes and those of his audience, he takes on sensitive issues with intelligence and thoughtfulness.

Burns has spent most of the year performing in Australia and Hollywood, so this is a rare chance to see him performing in the UK.

The show is suitable for over-18s only. Tickets cost £10/£8.

Book online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.



SWALE LEISURE

Bring your pirates and princesses to farm

ROYALTY and rascals are invited to Farming World next week when the Boughton attraction holds a Princess and Pirate Party on Tuesday afternoon.

The summer holiday activities will continue with a Creepy Crawly Day next Wednesday.

For more information you can call 01227 751144 or visit the website at www.farming-world.com.

Folk club invites you to come for a singalong

BRING an instrument, sing a song or just join the friendly atmosphere at Faversham Folk Club tonight.

The club is holding a Singers Night at the Chimney Boy in Preston Street, starting at 8.30pm. Admission is £1.

For more information about the club and upcoming events, call 01795 423674 or go to www.favershamfolkclub.net.

House plays host to Merchant of Venice

THE open-air production of Merchant of Venice is returning to Swale.

Hazlitt Arts Centre and Changeling Theatre's contemporary version stars former Hollyoaks star Oliver Farnworth as the lovelorn Lorenzo. The show is at Belmont House, near Faversham, on Friday and Saturday. Call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk to book.

Let your kids run wild with National Trust

THE National Trust is encouraging children to run wild at its properties.

Throughout the school holidays and beyond, the National Trust's Wild Child campaign features lots of fun wildlife events taking place at many of its Kent attractions. Families can pick up a free Wild Child pack full of great ideas for arts and crafts, things to do in the garden and family days out.

For more information visit www.wild-child.org.uk.

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SPENDING TIME OUTDOORS IS A GREAT WAY TO REVITALISE BODY AND SOUL.

Stay safe in the sun

As soon as the warm weather arrives we all want to go out and enjoy it – and why shouldn't we? We all spend far too much time in air conditioned offices gazing wistfully out of the window.

But whether we are enjoying some sun in the Med or in our back garden we still need to protect ourselves.

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK. Right now, around 1,700 people are being treated for malignant melanoma and other skin cancers in the eastern and coastal Kent region.

Most skin cancers are caused by damage from sunburn and could easily be prevented.

1. Apply sunblocks or sunscreens with high sun protection factors (at least factor 15).
2. Take extra care with children – use factor 30 plus. For babies use factor 50 plus.
3. Apply generously and reapply frequently, especially after activities such as swimming or towelling.
4. Wear a wide-brimmed hat to reduce exposure to the face, eyes, head and neck.
5. Limit the amount of time you spend in the sun, particularly between 11am and 3pm.

6. Cover skin with clothing giving good protection - examples are longsleeved shirts and loose clothing with a close weave.
7. Seek shade, but remember sunburn can occur even when in partial shade or when cloudy.
8. Wear wrap-around sunglasses.
9. Remember certain prescribed drugs, medicines, foods, cosmetics and plant materials can also make people more sensitive to sunlight.

Coping with sunburn

Sunburn is when your skin overheats and becomes red and painful and may later peel or blister.

If you get sunburn:

- Cool the skin down by dabbing it with a cool, wet towel or tissue.
- If really bad, take a quick cold shower.
- Don't go back into the sun until you've healed.
- Drink plenty of fluids to replace the water lost through sweating and to cool down.
- Apply calamine or after-sun lotion.
- For adults, painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen can help relieve pain and reduce swelling.

Be prepared for a heatwave

IT'S not just the sun that can be our foe as well as our friend. Continued humidity, especially during a heatwave, can be dangerous too.

The heat can affect anyone, but some people run a greater risk of serious harm, especially the very young, older people and those with serious illnesses.

It can make heart and respiratory problems worse and in extreme cases can lead to heat stroke, which can be fatal.

To stay safe:

10. Keep an eye on children, vulnerable friends and neighbours.
11. Keep plenty of water to hand and stay in the shade where possible.
12. Shut and shade windows when it is hotter outside and open them for ventilation when cooler.
13. Avoid doing things that need lots of effort like sport, DIY or gardening.
14. People with serious health problems (for example heart conditions), should avoid going out in the heat, especially between 11am and 3pm.

15. Drink cold drinks like water or fruit juice regularly and avoid tea, coffee and alcohol.

16. Stay tuned to the weather forecast and plan ahead with supplies – think of elderly neighbours who may need help with supplies.

17. Identify the coolest room in the house to cool down or sleep in.

18. People with respiratory problems should stay inside during the hottest part of the day.



for summer...



HERE ARE YOUR HEALTH'S TOP 50 TIPS ON HOW TO DO IT SAFELY

Enjoy your barbeque in safety

WHAT better way to enjoy a balmy evening than some healthy barbecue food with friends?

Just don't become one of the 965 cases of people in east Kent turned up at accident and emergency with food poisoning last year – that doesn't include those who suffered nasty fire-related injuries either!

When you're cooking on a barbecue, make sure you:

19. Place your barbecue on a level surface, away from plants and trees.
20. Cover the bottom of your barbecue with coal to a depth of no more than 5cm (2in).
21. Use only recognised firelighters or starter fuel, and then only on cold coals.
22. Wait until coals are glowing red with a powdery grey surface before you start cooking.
23. Wash your hands every time you touch raw meat and keep it separate from other foods.
24. Properly thaw frozen meat before you cook it.
25. Turn meat regularly and move it around the barbecue to cook it evenly.
26. Remember that meat is safe to eat only when it is piping hot in the centre, there is no pink meat visible and the juices are clear.
27. Keep prepared food in the fridge wherever possible and don't leave it out in the sun.

Avoid bringing back the worst kind of souvenir

A sexually transmitted infection (STI) or unintended pregnancy can be the worst kind of souvenir to bring home. Last year, more than 2,500 sexually transmitted infections were diagnosed in east Kent genitourinary medicine clinics.

28. Always buy a pack of condoms in addition to your normal contraceptive.
29. Vomiting, diarrhoea, and some medicines, including some antibiotics and some anti-malaria drugs can make the contraceptive pill and some contraceptive implants less effective so always use a condom to help protect against pregnancy and STIs.
30. Only buy condoms with the CE mark on the packet.
31. Keep condoms away from oil-based products such as suntan lotion, baby oil and lipstick.
32. Store condoms in a cool, dry place.

* For more help and advice on safer sex, visit your pharmacist, call Sexual Health Direct on 0845 122 8690 or go to www.condomessentialwear.co.uk

A real stinger

For most people, stings and bites from insects are painful but harmless. However, if you also experience symptoms anywhere else you may be having an allergic reaction and should seek emergency medical treatment.

33. Remove the sting as soon as possible with your fingers or tweezers.
34. Bee stings have a poisonous sac so take care not to puncture it as you remove the sting.
35. Wash the area with soap and water.
36. Put a cold flannel on the area.
37. Raise the part of the body that has been stung or bitten to prevent swelling.
38. Use a spray, or cream, containing local anaesthetic or antihistamine on the affected area to help prevent itching and swelling.
39. Take painkillers, such as paracetamol (if the sting or bite is very painful).
40. Don't scratch the area, as it may become infected.
41. Consult your GP if redness and itching does not clear up after 48 hours.

Have fun outdoors in safety

Summer is a great time for children to get out and experience the world around them. You do need to be aware of safety issues, but this isn't a reason to stop children enjoying activities.

42. Nominate a responsible adult to supervise the children at parties and barbecues.
43. Make sure one adult stays sober to supervise the children.
44. Ask hosts to place medicines and cleaning products out of sight and out of reach.
45. Check the garden regularly for potential hazards, such as tools, ponds or water butts.
46. If children are around barbecues, watch that they don't get too close to hot surfaces.
47. Protect your child from the sun.
48. Be safe around water with your child.
49. Consider taking a first aid course.
50. Follow all these simple steps and you be guaranteed a fun and action-packed summer in the sun.

For more help and advice visit your local pharmacist,
call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47 or go to www.nhs.uk



LEGENDARY: Australian drum and bass superstars Pendulum will be joined by MC Jakes (above right) for the Dubbed Out bank holiday weekend special at the Loft in Maidstone

Pendulum are holiday hits at drum and bass night

AUSTRALIA'S most cherished export since Foster's will headline a stellar night of drum and bass next month.

Pendulum will perform the main DJ set at 666's Dubbed Out Bank Holiday weekend special at The Loft in Maidstone.

The six-piece – famed for big bass hits such as Granite, Propane Nightmares and Slam – will be backed by their UK tour master of ceremonies, MC Jakes, up-and-coming dubstep act 16 Bit and regular Dubbed Out residents Midnight Flight.

More acts are set to be added to the line-up.

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A 666 spokesman said: "It's the sixth instalment of Kent's biggest dubstep and drum and bass night."

"Pendulum are fast becoming legendary for their high-driven live shows and their DJ sets match the live band for their innovation and all-round energy."

"And yes, Perth's one and only Pendulum, the hottest drum and bass act on the planet, will be hitting The Loft and smashing out their rolling beats with MC Jakes."

"Expect breakdowns, beats, rewinds, wildly

remade tracks, fresh remixes and crazy, live mixing skills."

There are two 666 club nights at The Loft; the specialist electro/house/rave Spank night and the dubstep/drum and bass/experimental sounds of Dubbed Out.

The next Spank night is on Saturday, August 15, with Jack Beats – featuring the Scratch Perverts' DJ Plus One – taking to the turntables. Support comes from Matt Cox, Twisted DJs and Hijak Allstars.

Dubbed Out takes place on Saturday, August 29.

Get tickets at www.wegotickets.com/event/53563 for just £10. Entry costs £12 on the door. The nights runs from 10pm to 4am.

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Pop quartet McFly perform at Rochester Castle Gardens summer concerts



Catch the best of the action at this year's Lounge on the Farm festival.



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- 2 Lost in Colour - Stay Awake Tonight (from Maidstone)
- 3 D-Finitive - Space (from Tenterden)
- 4 Shelta - Lets Talk (from Bexley)
- 5 The Semantics - Soho Nympho (from Gillingham)



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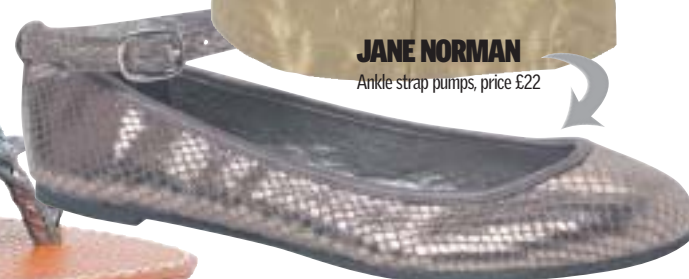


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SWALE SHOPPING

Bagham yourself an antique in Chilham

ICONIC designs of the 20th century can be admired at Bagham Barn Antiques in Chilham, near Canterbury.

This weekend the shop launches a brand new 20th century design studio, featuring some of the most striking pieces created over the last 100 years. This new studio appears alongside Bagham Barn's stock of fine antique furniture, collectables and art.

For more information call 07780 675201 or see www.baghambarn.com.

Improve your sporting skills at Bluewater

YOUNG shoppers can try out their sporting skills with a special event at Bluewater next week.

On Tuesday and Wednesday next week Robinsons Fruit Shoot will be inviting children to learn new football tricks, have a go at ping cup and jump to it with a skipping rope, then take part in competitions.

The event runs from 10am to 9pm both days. For details about Robinsons Fruit Shoot see www.fruitshoot.com.

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See www.skinblossom.co.uk.

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HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE (12A)



With the evil Voldemort on the rise, the students at Hogwarts have to be ever more vigilant about who is among them.

BRÜNO (18)



Sacha Baron Cohen adopts the role of gay, crass, insolent fashionista Bruno from Austria, who tours the US looking to set up unsuspecting locals with his outrageous brand of 'interviewing'.

THE PRIVATE LIVES OF PIPPA LEE (15)



Robin Wright Penn stars as Pippa Lee, a woman heading for a mental breakdown after moving to a retirement village with her older husband, who has an affair with her friend's son.

When art imitated life for The Proposal's Sandra

■ BY KATE WHITING

FIVE years ago Sandra Bullock was single, heading for 40 and throwing herself into the Oscar-winning ensemble drama *Crash*.

Today she's married, stepmum to her tattooed biker-welder-husband's three kids and back on screens in a romantic comedy.

It's quite a turnaround, especially for an actress who used to believe marriage was a "death sentence". So what changed?

"I had everything I wanted, not realising that maybe I was going after things that weren't filling me up in the way I wanted," she says, candidly, when we meet in a London hotel to discuss her role as an unlikely bride in *The Proposal*.

"I never felt I was missing anything until one day I stopped long enough to smell the roses outside of this little treadmill I had gotten myself on to and I realised there were other things I liked that I didn't know."

In short, she fell in love with the right guy.

Sandra met Jesse James, apparently a real-life descendent of the American outlaw, and former presenter of the Discovery Channel's *Monster Garage*, when she arranged for her godson to meet him for a Christmas present.

They started dating and three months in she realised he was 'the one' – when he lay injured in a hospital bed after a racing accident.

"I always thought marriage meant that someone was going to ask you to stop being who you were and I met someone who not only wants me to be who I am, but likes it," says Sandra, beaming broadly.

In a bizarre case of art imitating life, Sandra's character in *The Proposal*, Margaret, is a workaholic boss who doesn't think she needs anything else in her life.



LIFE CHANGE: Sandra Bullock stars in *The Proposal*

But when the threat of deportation back to her native Canada means losing her job as an editor in a publishing company, she turns to her personal assistant Andrew (Ryan Reynolds) and blackmails him into marrying her.

Andrew reluctantly agrees, on the condition that she flies with him to Alaska to meet his family and celebrate his Grandma Annie's (Betty White) 90th birthday.

In real life, of course, Sandra is nothing like the hard-nosed, Christian Louboutin-wearing New Yorker Margaret – although she does look immaculate today in a white-and-black top, with her long dark hair tucked behind one shoulder to reveal a diamond earring.

And she is the 'older woman'. While Ryan, married to Scarlet Johansson, is 32, Sandra will be 45 later this month – although she hardly looks a day over 29 – the age she

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was in her breakthrough role in 1994's *Speed*.

As she sucks on boiled sweets and lets out real belly laughs, it is clear she couldn't be an 'evil witch' if she tried.

Through roles in films like *Miss Congeniality* and *Two Weeks Notice*, Sandra – Sandy to her friends – became known as the comic actress who could play the girl-next-door, the tomboy and the sexy leading lady.

Due to having some bad experiences of comedy, she only agreed to do *The Proposal* if she could be executive producer.

As for her acting future, Sandra implies that she might not stick at it for the long haul, unlike her 87-year-old *Proposal* co-star Betty White.

"Most of what I do in my life doesn't happen in front of the camera and I love it just as much."

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Regain your balance in Rockies

■ BY ROGER CROW

MY LUNGS were on fire as I forced one foot in front of the other. If exhaustion didn't get me, I wondered if a bear would.

Not that I'd seen one on my hour-long hike through the Canadian wilderness, but with plenty of warnings about such beasts in the area, I couldn't be too careful.

I'd hiked through the Rockies two years earlier and barely broken a sweat, so I wondered if the time between visits had left me out of shape.

"One more step and I'll reach the summit," I thought, but the track kept getting steeper, winding off into the distance. The roar of a cascading stream to my left was a driving soundtrack as I forced myself on.

With lungs gasping for breath, I reached my destination: the source of the waterfall – a sheer stone wall, water bubbling through the gap at its base.

At first sight, the hike had seemed simple until I realised later we were 7,200 feet above sea level. As Ben Nevis is an estimated 4,000 feet, it's little wonder I found it a struggle.

Based at peaceful Mount Engadine Lodge, half an hour's drive from one of Canada's most beautiful towns, Canmore, I was relieved to see our hosts had bear spray ready to ward off unwanted gatecrashers.

It's off the beaten track, and the lack of TVs and phone reception leaves some guests feeling a little cut-off, but if you want a break from civilisation, this is the perfect retreat.

After two idyllic days of picture-postcard views, I headed for Rafter Six Ranch Resort, between Calgary and Banff, for a horse ride to remember.



MAJESTIC: The Rockies make an impressive backdrop to views well worth hiking for, but don't forget bear spray

This three-and-a-half-hour trek was not for the faint of heart, and with an often-difficult course over tricky terrain, it made for a memorable, albeit taxing experience. Experienced riders will love it.

The following day was the summer solstice, a time for trying new things, as our yoga guide told us.

Icefield Tours, about two hours' drive from the heart of Banff, offers an unforgettable helicopter ride over some of the world's most breathtaking scenery. While some marry there, or go hiking, I was keen to try heli-yoga.

Our guide Martha was a tribute to the power of yoga. She turned 50 that week, but could have passed for mid-30s.

The breathtaking helicopter journey over winding aquamarine lakes and a sea of trees framed by the monumental Rockies was soon

balanced by utter calm. We touched down in a deserted field that would have looked at home in Little House On The Prairie.

It was an unlikely setting in which to be practising back arches, standing on one leg or 'saluting the sun'.

While having lunch by a babbling stream, I realised this was one of those rare trips which, unlike some of my yoga moves, was perfectly balanced.

Thanks to Martha's instructions, I alleviated my back pain and strengthened under-used muscles. It was one of the high points of this trip – or indeed any trip.

After three visits to Alberta, my ongoing love affair with this jewel in the Canadian crown shows no sign of abating. I may not have dropped a decade like my yoga guru did, but days there nudged my clock back a few weeks.

FACT FILE: CANADA

Time difference	- Five hours (GMT)
Capital	Ottawa
Languages	English and French
Population	34 million
Currency	£1 = 1.78 Canadian dollars
Religion	Roman Catholic and Protestant
Climate	Temperate to arctic

Travel information

Roger Crow was a guest of Travel Alberta and BA Holidays, which offers seven-night fly-drive packages into Calgary from £814 per person in summer 2009, incl return BA flights and Avis inclusive car hire. Ex-Manchester from £876, ex-Glasgow from £874, both via Heathrow. All prices assume two sharing.

BA Holidays reservations: 0844 493 0758 and visit ba.com (add £15pp surcharge for telephone bookings).

Destination info: www.TravelAlberta.com



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YOUR TV REVIEW

BY JAMES ALEXANDRE

HEADSHRINKERS OF THE AMAZON

FIVE SUPERSIZERS, ANCIENT ROME

BBC Two, 12.20am, Friday

FIVE upped the stakes with Channel 4 in the ever-more-provocative and outrageous programme titles race with its Thursday night offering – Headshrinkers of the Amazon.

Reporter Piers Gibbon found himself in a remote Ecuadorian village in search of shamen, with the possibility that his own brain would come back reduced, rather than enlightened, by the experience.

Fortunately, and perhaps unsurprisingly, he escaped unscathed and the Shuar villagers seemed more than welcoming, no doubt not used to having too many Western visitors these days.

The most disturbing part of it all was archive footage by a Polish explorer, Edmundo Bielawski, of an apparent head-shrinking ritual in motion, which was the cause for Gibbon's foray into the rainforest.

Perhaps this is how people who tune into rolling news coverage feel? The 1960s flickering images from the old film added to the eeriness of it all.

The programme later unravels the continuing black market trade in 'tsantsas' or officially shrunk head collectibles, all rather gruesome but nevertheless watchable.

The most poignant moment came when Gibbon met the widow of a man who disappeared after criticising the shamen's ritual, never to be seen again.

Definitely thought-provoking, but not while eating your boiled potatoes and green beans.

That particular fare is not something the Supersizers, aka Giles



GRUB'S UP: Sue Perkins and Giles Coren will sample the delights of Roman food this week

Coren and Sue Perkins, will be likely to eat this week as they prepare to feast on the delights of ancient Rome for the last in the series.

They travel back to the early days of the Roman Empire to live on the food of the age and will inhabit a villa and don togas to scoff their faces through the culinary timeline of 44BC to 80AD.

What I like about this show is that even though it sticks to roughly the same formula each week the hosts are funny and the food cooked up for them is always intriguing.

The wartime episode, which showed how people got by on rations, with such delights as potato sandwiches forming part of an average diet, was especially interesting.

For the Rome experience, Italian chef and cookery writer Valentina Harris takes to a marble kitchen to rustle up delights such as the putrid-smelling fish sauce garum, the snack of iguana meat and other treats.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

DON'T throw your pearls to swine. Although you enjoy being generous with your resources you need to examine the reasons behind this behaviour. The minute you cut off the supply, fair-weather friends will drop you like a hot potato. You never know when your financial luck will run out.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

BUILDING your entire identity on a career isn't the best idea. You need to balance your life with other things. Granted, it's nice to be appreciated at work, but remember things always change. If you are suddenly left out in the cold, you'll need a place to go and lick your wounds.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

YOU may be putting too much stock in a close relationship. Being in love will not solve all of your problems. In fact, it can multiply them. You are too strong to be influenced or intimidated by anyone, but getting just the right balance will be a bit of a struggle, but well worth it.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU might be overreacting to some career pressure. Try keeping this situation in perspective. If your boss asks you to do the impossible, be ready to just say 'no' and explain why. The more rational you are, the easier it will be to compromise. You may be suffering from a lack of love in your life.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

DON'T give people too much credit this week. A secret enemy could be working against your interests. It's best to leave a paper trail of memos and advice notes for all of your work. That way, if somebody tries to take credit for it, you'll be able to prove who the true author is.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU may be putting too much trust in an opinion. What's good for one person isn't necessarily right for you. Strive to find your identity in this situation. Settling down to a single relationship or job could make you miserable. Be ready to break ranks for the sake of your own happiness.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

OVERINDULGING in food or drink will leave you wacked out. You need to make some sensible choices about what you put into your body. It may be wise to avoid a friend who likes to party hard. If you've fallen into some bad habits, be prepared for someone close to lay the law down.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

PROMISING more than you can deliver will get you in trouble. You've always been proud of your total honesty. Think what will happen if people start doubting your word. There may be good intentions behind your vows, but it's important to be realistic about what you can and can't do.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

TRYING to fit in with the crowd could be a pain. If you're forced to choose between your conscience and being popular, be true to yourself. Some friends will accuse you of betrayal, but eventually they'll respect your decision. Blurring out a secret could get you in trouble.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

IS debt spiralling out of control? It's time to take control of your finances. If you have a business or romantic partner who is being irresponsible with your joint resources, maybe it's time to open a personal account. Having your own nest egg is crucial to your emotional security.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

IT is possible to have too much fun. Shirking your responsibilities will make friends angry. If you've recently fallen in love, it will be hard to tear yourself away from your lover's side. But make more time for those who were there for you during the single days.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

INSISTING others toe your line creates resentment. You need to respect peoples' differences. A placid person's angry outburst is a warning you have gone too far. Try being more sensitive to your surroundings. Listening will help you understand where others are coming from.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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MEDIUM

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HARD

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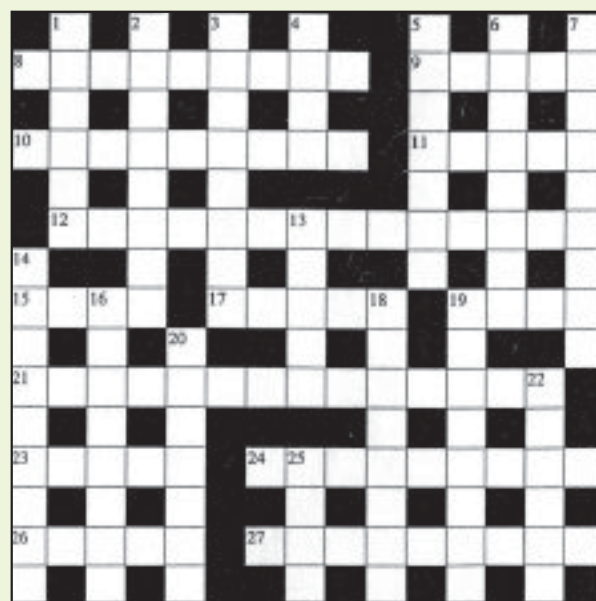
ACROSS

- 8 A continental note that had been strained (9)
9 Was amazingly due to ooze out (5)
10 Group leader getting into another oily pool when there is only limited competition (9)
11 In public it is lawful (5)
12 What silly blank verse hasn't got (5,3,6)
15 Assuming engineers go round common (4)
17 Collect fool before noon first (5)
19 The way one in France will amaze (4)
21 Wise guy is going round southern country archipelago (7,7)
23 Matilda's dance (5)
24 Strong enough to resist effects of something that costs large sum of money? (9)
25 Are without a single repeat showing (5)
27 Master can rearrange religious act (9)

DOWN

- 1 Head branch (6)
2 Carved a gory leg, it had been carved (8)
3 Serve a writ upon beast losing time haphazardly (8)
4 Bar security (4)
5 Like eels that had congealed? (7)
6 Ready to plant cutting of hawthorn (8)
7 Rep intent struggling to the point (9)
13 In the book a picture of an animal (5)
14 Angry remark about this puzzle (9)
16 People learning ancient customs (8)
18 Sarah started zucchini before grub-up in Austria (8)
19 Reportedly made a mistake going to capital with recurrence of symptoms (8)
20 Astonishing Grace? (7)
22 Ranger receiving advance in southeast (6)
25 Not quite round the cricket ground (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Student of the past (9)
9 Get to know (5)
10 Refusing to accept (9)
11 Italian Grand Prix venue (5)
12 Concurrently (14)
15 Burn (4)
17 Sum owed (5)
19 Brother of Abel (4)
21 Light-haired female (8,6)
23 Hellenic (5)
24 Small German sausage (9)
26 Ratel (anag.) (5)
27 Skit (9)

DOWN

- 1 Upper arm muscle (6)
2 Heavy cold (8)
3 Talked idly (8)
4 Caution (4)
5 Perplex (7)
6 Medicinal powder (8)
7 Changeless (9)
13 Book of photographs (5)
14 Fall-guy (9)
16 Almond-flavoured liqueur (8)
18 Sneak (8)
19 Victory (8)
20 Edible nut (7)
22 Relax (4,2)
25 Tour (anag.) (4)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No97

EASY

7	9	1	6	3	8	5	2	4
3	6	2	4	9	5	7	1	8
8	5	4	1	2	7	6	9	3
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5	2	7	9	8	3	1	4	6
9	1	3	2	5	4	8	6	7
2	7	5	8	6	9	4	3	1
8	4	8	3	7	1	2	5	9

MEDIUM

8	6	1	7	3	9	2	5	4
4	3	5	2	6	1	8	7	9
2	9	7	8	5	4	3	6	1
6	5	2	9	4	3	1	8	7
1	8	3	6	7	2	4	9	5
7	4	9	1	8	5	6	2	3
5	1	6	3	9	8	7	4	2
3	7	4	5	9	6	1	8	7
9	2	8	4	1	7	5	3	6

HARD

4	6	3	1	5	9	8	2	7
5	1	2	8	6	7	3	9	4
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1	8	5	9	2	4	7	6	3
7	2	4	6	3	8	9	5	1
8	3	9	5	7	1	4	8	2
3	5	1	4	9	6	2	7	8
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2	9	6	7	8	3	1	4	5

CRYPTIC SOLUTION No97

ACROSS: 1 Cash flow 6 Mirage 9 Blintz 10 Xenophon 11 Straight talk 13 Jingo 14 Slingshot 17 Flatulent 19 Green 21 Station-wagon 24 Coquette 25 Inbred 26 Extend 27 Speaking. DOWN: 2 Ably 3 Hindsight 4 Lizard 5 Waxbill 6 Munching 7 Repot 8 Good-looker 12 Billet-doux 15 Springbok 16 Allotted 18 Newness 20 Ignite 22 Truce 23 Vein.

QUICK SOLUTION No98

ACROSS: 8 Historian 9 Learn 10 Reflecting 11 Monza 12 Simultaneously 15 Chair 17 Debit 19 Cain 21 Platinum blonde 23 Greek 24 Bratwurst 26 After 27 Bursaque. DOWN: 1 Biceps 2 Streamer 3 Prattled 4 Warm 5 Flummox 6 Manganese 7 Unwarying 13 Album 14 Scapgoat 16 Amaretto 18 Telltale 19 Conquest 20 Hickory 22 Ease up 25 Route.

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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WOMEN seeking men

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

Young lady, 20, enjoys meals out, cinema and socialising with friends, WLTW a man, 20-30, with similar interests. Eastbourne. Box 454247 ①

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Hi I'm Katie, caring, fun-loving, 5ft5, slim single mum of 2. Enjoy clubbing out and cosy nights in with genuine man. Box 453269 ①

MATCH OF THE DAY!

Fun-to-be-with, blonde female, 25, 5ft2, a woman who loves football! Enjoys going out and staying in, looking for a like-minded man, to be her soulmate. Box 446494 ①

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU BABY

Caring and honest lady, 25, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for a sweet, caring and respectful non-smoking man, 25-35, for love, friendship and LTR. Box 873522 ① ②

NOT YOUR BROWN-EYED GIRL, BUT...

Blue-eyed brunette, 27, 5ft1, loves films, walking, darts, pool, singing, me time! Looking for honest guy with GSOH, to get to know. Box 880105 ①

YOURS AND YOURS ONLY

Attractive, down-to-earth British-Indian single mum, 29, WLTW with male 30-35, 5ft6, no ties, for long-term relationship. Box 883431 ①

GIVE AND TAKE IN LOVE

Loving lady, blonde female, 30, blue eyes, brown hair, seeking LTR with male 30-35, 5ft6, no baggage, in the Maidstone area. Box 448471 ①

SEEKING MR DARCY

Warm, kind and sincere woman, 31, lots of love and loyalty for the right person, seeking an honest genuine man with a good heart. Box 451004 ①

HORSES FOR COURSES...

Caring, loving, affectionate female, 30, 5ft2, blonde, likes walking, horse riding, animals, seeks affectionate male, 30-40, for lasting, loving relationship. Box 384013 ①

IN THE COUNTRY

Are you the one? I'm 33, single, 5ft2, pure country lass from farming background, seeking my lovely country man to make me forever happy. Box 892265 ①

A FAIRYTALE ENDING!

Princess Fiona, 34, looking to meet her Shrek. 5ft8, short brown/blonde hair, blue eyes, large build, seeks romantic caring guy for friendship, maybe more! Box 877357 ① ②

GOOD LUCK CHARM

Sporty female, 34, 5ft2, likes the gym, beach walks, Tennis and cycling, WLTW similar male in his 30s for friendship in Eastbourne. Box 453712 ①

HAPPY DAYS!

Attractive, fun-loving female, 31, 5ft4", size 12, dark hair with blonde highlights, tactile, WLTW intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship, Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 ① ②

SOUND GOOD?

Hello I'm Andrea, 35, petite 5ft3, shoulder length curly hair. I enjoy eating out, cinema and I'm looking for friendship and possible long term relationship. Box 453039 ①

SEALED WITH A KISS

Petite lady, 36, long hair, blue eyes, single mum, enjoys holidays, wine and dining, laughing, seeks loyal, loving man for friendship and more. Box 453079 ①

STARRY NIGHTS

Hello I'm Sarah, single mum from Kent, brown hair enjoy swimming nights out looking for a caring man who to share the best thing in life. Box 878378 ①

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 ①

GALLOP AHEAD!

Maidstone-based woman, 36, 5ft5, slim, blue eyes. I'm caring, honest and have 4 children. I enjoy drives and horse riding and WLTW honest, reliable man. Box 451311 ①

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Lovely female, 36, 5ft4, medium/large build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 ①

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum, 37, fun-loving, been hurt in past, looking for nice, genuine guy for hopeful happiness - no time wasters! Box 908053 ① ②



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Enter P2P as subject.
MMS - network charges apply.

SEIZE THE DAY
Loving female, 36, 5ft4, brown hair, green eyes, likes socialising, staying in, seeks genuine male for friendship and more. Box 428666 ①

CUTE AS CAN BE
Cute single mum of four, 38, Kent-based, into most things, looking for friendship, possibly romance. Box 897985 ① ②

BLONDE AMBITION
Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mum, 39, 5ft6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 905614 ① ②

A SOUL MATE
Black Christian girl, 39, likes country music, loving, considerate, kind, caring, looking for a like-minded man, 32-50, with a pretty inside. Box 453066 ①

ENTHUSIASM ENCOURAGED!
Lovely pretty big-busted lady, 39, medium build, 5ft5, lots of energy! likes the gym, reading, new experiences! seeking nice man for potential exciting relationship! Box 446724 ①

TO THE STARS
Woman with a great sense of humour, I'm 40 and I like going out, astrology, writing and socialising. How about you? Kent area. Box 453877 ①

YOUNG-AT-HEART
Attractive 38yr old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curvy, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walks, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friendship, relationship. Box 901893 ① ②

PERFECT MATCH
Hi I'm Nikki, 5ft7, brown hair, green eyes, enjoys animals especially my pets. Looking for a tall man who has a personality compatible with mine Box 453374 ①

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JOINED AT THE HIP

Sociable petite girl with great SOH, 40, blonde, sociable, love football! Looking for fun guy with great SOH for inseparable partnership. Box 880434 ① ②

A NICE BOTTLE OF WINE

Lovely, glossy brunette, 39yr old, petite, bubbly and loving, enjoys theatre, music and eating out, WLTW a professional, loving and tactile male for a relationship. Box 442551 ① ②

BETWEEN US

Asian lady, 41, single, no ties, out going, fun loving, professional, looking for a white male, genuine, professional and solvent. Box 451900 ①

FOR A RELATIONSHIP?

Shy but confident-once-known female, 40, likes socialising, tennis, walks, swimming; seeks gent with similar interests to find hopeful love with. Box 452106 ①

THE WIT TO WOO!

Kent female, 40, 5'7", dark eyes, GSOH, no ties, likes cosy nights in, socialising, country pubs, cinema, seeks loyal, caring male, for friendship & more. Box 152862 ①

LIFE IS GIVING LOVE A GUARANTEE

Down-to-earth lady, 42, sincere, honest and reliable, looking for a male for friendship first, going out, enjoying evenings and perhaps something more later on. Box 449712 ①

I SHOULD BE SO LUCKY
Hello, I'm Karen, 42, dark brown hair, medium build, GSOH, looking for a man with no issues and GSOH who can enjoy life with me. Box 452204 ①

HELLO EVERYONE!
Single dog-owner, 42, fun-loving, kind and loyal, likes meals out, weekends away, country walks, WLTW a non-smoking guy to share it all with. Seaford Box 454569 ①

BELLA ISABEL
Lovely, fun and caring brunette, 42, recently divorced, intelligent, hard working, fun-loving, WLTW a gent to socialise with. Box 878250 ①

LIVE LIFE TO THE FULL
Good-looking brunette from Kent, 43, 5ft10, likes bowling, eating in/out etc. Looking for a good-looking guy, 35-45, with GSOH for friendship/relationship. Box 450348 ①

YOU NEVER KNOW
Kind, loving and caring mum, 43, 5ft5, round but cuddly! Just looking for someone to share my life with... how about you? St. Leonards-on-Sea. Box 446457 ①

GENUINE REPLIES ONLY
Bubbly female, 44, brunette, N/S, medium/large build, enjoys singing and theatre. Would love to meet a decent fun-loving guy, similar age, pref non-smoker for LTR. Box 445955 ①

TLC ON OFFER FOR THE RIGHT PERSON!
Blonde, blue eyed woman, 44, fun-loving, looking for Mr Right. I love going out, nights in, movies, walking, long gigs. WLTW the right man for TLC. Box 880280 ① ②

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE
Hard-working female, 41, 5'4", bubbly, independent woman, love to laugh, socialising with friends, looking for independent man who values TLC. Box 414156 ①

ARE YOU THE ONE FOR ME?
Caring, cute female, 46, petite, likes socialising, dancing, travelling, good food, seeking intelligent, loyal man 42-52 for love and TLC. Seaford. Box 444366 ①

HELP ME OPEN UP
Easygoing lady, 46, dark brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, likes film, socialising, the seaside, walks, drinks. WLTW male to share a bottle of wine with. Box 444585 ①

LOOK THIS WAY!
Slim single mum, 48, 5ft5, light brown hair, works full time, friendly and easy-going. WLTW lots of new friends, friendly someone special. Box 878456 ①

BE MY FRIEND AND LOVER
Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy Box 425952 ①

LOVE TO MEET YOU
Kind woman, 42, outgoing, happy-go-lucky, sometimes shy. I like gardening, socialising, travel, walks. Looking for happy, fun fella. Aylesford Box 428464 ①

COULD IT BE YOU?
Hi I'm 44, slim, 5ft6, a redhead, love nights out, socialising, looking for friendship initially and hopefully more later on. Box 889800 ①

STARTING OVER
Divorced 45yr old cuddly woman, brown eyes/hair, likes swimming, animals, cinema, soaps, the beach. WLTW a honest, non-smoking man for friendship, maybe more. Ashford Box 878141 ①

I LOVE LIFE
I'm Roxie, 46, 5ft7, dark curly hair, like theatre, opera and ballet, seeking a man that full of life and adventures! Box 454391 ①

COME ON DOWN!
Honest, bubbly female 45, long hair, slim, enjoys walking, cinema, socialising; seeks honest, friendly chap for friendship leading to more. Box 882693 ①

YOUNG AT HEART
Young 46, fun-loving but also mature, serious female, looking for someone fit, handsome, intelligent and full of fun. Box 884113 ① ②

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Understanding, caring female, 45, 5ft4, medium build, brown hair, likes cinema, animals, music, romantic puns, seeking male for cuddles, hugs and more. Box 444873 ①

MAID MARIAN!
Hi, I'm Marian, petite, blonde, green eyes, 46, looking for my Mr Right, to have fun with and enjoy lasting relationship with. Box 447386 ①

HEART AND SOUL
Easy-going single mum, 46, 5ft4, size 12/14, likes bowling, gardening, swimming, looking for a man, 35-49, slim/medium build with similar interests. Maidstone Box 454176 ①

FANCY A FILM?
Hi, I'm Pam, 47, 5ft11, brown hair, hazel eyes, slim/dish, divorced, looking for a LTR with a nice and genuine man. No time-wasters please! Heathfield. Box 448626 ①

SOUND GOOD?
Hi I'm Lynne 46, 5ft4, dark hair/eyes, love reading/writing, going out, astrology, cars; seeking honest, caring, outgoing guy to enjoy music, fun, friendship and more! Box 449186 ①

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PROPERTY NEWS

Call for regulation of buy-to-let investors

IN a recent poll of 550 mortgage brokers, more than half of respondents said they would like to see buy-to-let regulated by the Financial Services Authority.

A total of 54 per cent expressed that view in the light of the current property prices situation.

Research from mortgage specialist, Exact, also revealed that 63 per cent of brokers estimated that more than 75 per cent of their buy-to-let clients were amateur investors.

For two out of five respondents, the percentage soared to more than 90 per cent of amateur landlords.

Exact's managing director, Alan Cleary, is of the opinion that the ready mortgage finance and credit that existed until 2007 made it too easy for amateurs "without a commercial head on their shoulders" to enter the market.

He said: "It was a mistake to assume that because buy-to-let was viewed as a commercial endeavour, it could be left unregulated.

"The number of amateur landlords in the private rented sector with sizeable portfolios now well under water is proof of the fact."

Don't miss out on cash help for first-timers

FIRST-time buyers are being urged not to miss out on a share of £3.4 million which can help them on to the property ladder.

The money includes £1.7 million of Government funding for an initiative aimed at reducing the cost of homebuying and must be allocated before the end of this year.

"The scheme is called HomeBuy Direct and it dramatically reduces the initial purchase cost of a house and improves your chance of owning your own home," said Tim Nabbs, sales director for Ward Homes.

"We have around £1.7 million of Government funding, together with our own contribution of £1.7 million, which totals £3.4 million that has to be spent on HomeBuy Direct this year.

"I would advise people to come and talk to us to find out if they are eligible and we can answer any queries and help with the paperwork."

The scheme is open to a range of people who don't own their own home.

Households eligible will be earning more than £15,000 and less than £60,000.



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Prices raised as buyers increase in confidence

BY NICK AMES

HOME-SELLERS raised their asking prices this month to meet increased demand from buyers, according to the operator of the UK's biggest residential property website.

The average cost of a home rose 0.6 per cent to £227,864 after falling 0.4 per cent in June, Rightmove said in a statement.

The housing market is showing signs of recovery from the worst economic contraction in a generation after officials rescued banks and started printing money.

"With growing confidence that we've passed the bottom, buyers are more active, although they may discover that many of the best buys have gone," Miles Shippide, commercial director of Rightmove, said in the statement.

Seven of ten regions tracked by Rightmove rose this month.

The average number of properties available for sale at each estate agent fell to 70 per cent from 71 in June.

At the same time the number of people looking at property listings on the site is "much higher than we would expect" for this time of year, Rightmove said.

UK mortgage approvals rose to 43,414 in May, up from 27,000 in November, the least since Bank of England data began a decade ago.

The reading is still about a third less than at the start of 2008.

The Bank of England has cut the benchmark interest rate to a record low of 0.5 per cent and is buying £125 billion of bonds with newly-created money to ease lending strains.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown has spent billions of pounds rescuing banks.



"With only seven volume lenders remaining in the lending game, including three Government-backed institutions that are prioritising their balance sheets over new lending, we are set to bump along the bottom for some time yet," Mr Shippide said.

The economy will grow 0.5 per cent next year, up from a previous forecast for a 0.1 per

cent contraction, according to experts who use the same forecasting model as the Treasury.

They predict Gross Domestic Product will drop 4.4 per cent this year, more than an earlier estimate of 3.5 per cent.

Repossessions may total 17,494 in the third quarter, up from 17,049 in the three months through June.

Get deposit to secure mortgage

LOWER house prices should be good news for first-time buyers, but research shows that to secure a mortgage, they need an average deposit of £32,000.

Since the onset of the credit crunch almost two years ago, lenders have significantly tightened their lending criteria and the number of deals has been dwindling.

The best deals are saved for those with a hefty deposit – at least 25 per cent of buyers.

Research from moneysupermarket.com, the price comparison website, shows that some 13 per cent of 18 to 34 year olds are now thinking about buying their first home.

However, just 25 per cent of potential buyers have saved a deposit, which leaves three-quarters wondering where the money will come from. Many are relying on the 'bank of mum and dad'.

The figures show 16 per cent are thinking about taking out a loan to cover the cost of the deposit, but Louise Cuming, head of mortgages at moneysupermarket.com, warns that this is risky.

Ms Cuming said: "Taking out a loan to pay for a mortgage deposit is a dangerous move and must be avoided, even if it means you have to delay buying your first home."

She explained that if the lender discovers where the deposit came from, the mortgage application could be rejected.

In related news, house-builders Bovis, Redrow, Barratt and Persimmon last week highlighted that the lack of mortgage finance continued to hinder a recovery in the housing market.

The latest figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders show that mortgage lending improved in May.

However, the number of home loans was still 28 per cent lower than it was this time last year.

LEARN HOW ENERGY CONSERVATION IN THE HOME CAN BEAT THE CREDIT CRUNCH. SEARCH MONEY @ propertyforkent.co.uk

Ward & Partners

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Borden | Price Range: £335,000-£365,000

- 4 Bedroom Executive Detached
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Bayford Road £130,000

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Reams Way £124,995

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Harps Avenue £120,000

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The Oast House £100,000

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Teynham



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Iwade



£172,995

Three bedroom end of terrace house, conservatory, downstairs cloakroom. Excellent order.

Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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Sittingbourne



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Teynham



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MOTORS NEWS



Different strengths of Euro and Japanese cars

HONDA and Skoda hit the heights in a survey by extended guarantee insurance specialist, Warranty Direct, of the most reliable three to six-year-old cars.

The Japanese brand emerged as the least likely to break down, while Mazda, Toyota, Subaru, Nissan and Mitsubishi also figured in the top ten.

But when it came to the cost of repairs, Czech brand Skoda was cheapest with an annual bill averaging £215.94. Other European marques also tended to be easier on the pocket once they went wrong.



Some tempting deals on wheels from Nissan

NISSAN is tempting recession-hit consumers with a range of compelling deals until September 30, including a £1,000 discount on the newly launched five-door Pixo (from £5,995) city car.

This comes on top of low emissions qualifying the car for £35/year road tax fee and an average of 60+mpg.

Special editions of the low-cost Micra and Note (pictured) hatchbacks offer high-spec n-tec trim and Nissan is also making low deposit zero per cent finance and personal contract deals available across many models, as well as Government-sponsored scrappage offers.



Ceed seen in new light

KIA has unveiled a smart new look for its popular Ceed family hatchback and, in doing so, confirmed the Korean brand's new corporate face.

The mid-life facelift freshens both the inside and outside of the car that has put Kia on the map with UK buyers in the past couple of years, helped by an astonishing seven-year warranty.

The new-look car should appear in showrooms later this summer and will herald more new Kia models – with the smarter front end – early next year.



SHAPE SHIFTER: Seat have basically taken the previous generation Audi A4 and reworked it to produce the reborn Exeo, saving them the costs of developing an entirely new car

The audacious planning of 'Audi for Seat money'

ROAD TEST SEAT EXEO

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

Despite a Seat grille and some styling tweaks, it can't help looking like a 'dodgy Audi' or suffering from the A4's relatively cramped rear seating. But this is quibbling when compared with the benefits: pricing, peerless build quality, safety, reliability, a high quality cabin – ported over from the even more premium A4 Cabriolet rather than the saloon/estate – a decent boot and a terrific drive.

The last deserves most praise; Seat engineers chose to change the sporty chassis set-up of the Audi, which could be irritatingly firm in everyday use. There is still a Sport option, but our test car had Seat's standard set-up, which delivers a refined ride and responsive handling even on challenging roads.

Our mid-range SE spec car, with its entry level 2.0-litre 143PS/141bhp turbodiesel (£18,340) and six-speed gearbox also impressed with its liveliness, excellent cabin refinement and motorway composure – it should also average more than 50mpg.

Equipment levels are lavish, with our SE including cruise control, iPod/MP3 port, Bluetooth phone connectivity and voice control, rain sensing wipers, dual-zone climate control and smart alloys.



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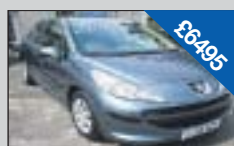
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e/m, Cd/MP3



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MERCEDES E-CLASS



MAYBE it is the most staid of our trio, but the E-Class claims the highest swank value. Nothing beats a three-pointed star on the bonnet at this level. Reliability and quality has been excellent, though the halo slipped on the previous 2002-2009 range (pictured) until a facelift in 2006. Ride and handling is more in the 'comfort zone', but the E-Class is nimble enough and the estate is a cavernous and luxurious load-lugger. Excellent diesel engines complete a tempting package.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

AUDI A6



UNTIL the current A6 range, Audi's 'management motor' struggled to match its German rivals for style and image, though fit and finish was beyond reproach. However, examples built before the current 2004 line-up (pictured) can still be incredible bargains. Unless you buy the more expensive quattro versions though, an A6 means front-wheel drive. Ride and comfort also tends towards hard and 'sporting', but the A6 offers excellent powertrains, particularly diesels.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

BMW 5-SERIES



BMW and its charismatic badge enjoy the most aspirational image with buyers and much credit goes to the 5-Series – a big car yet famed for its handling. The previous incarnation (pictured) laid the foundations for that and many people still prefer its reserved styling to the looks of its successor. The 5-Series also boasts some excellent engines, though chronically underpowered four-cylinder petrol ex-company car variants are best avoided – whatever the price.

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Looks and image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Quality	★★★★★

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AUDI

RS6, CAT D REPAIRED, 2003, grey with black leather, 27000 miles, £13995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

ARNAGE, r auto, 2002, green metallic with green leather, 61000 miles, £34950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BMW

3 SERIES, 318 ci es coupe, 2005, silver metallic with black cloth, 45800 miles, £9850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 ci sport convertible auto, 2002, topaz blue metallic with grey leather sport seats, 93000 miles, £9950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 325 i se manual touring, 2001, crystal green met with green cloth, 122000 miles, £2950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

3 SERIES, 318 ci es, 2005, orient blue metallic with black leather, 22800 miles, £10950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

5 SERIES, 523ise, 2007, sapphire black metallic with grey cloth interior, 43800 miles, £15950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0 sport automatic, 2002, topaz blue metallic with black dakota sport leather, 104365 miles, £9850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X5, 3.0d Sport 5dr Auto, ycd4mD, 2002, metallic with adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, traction control. insurance group:17, black, 60000 miles, £17495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

KALOS, se 1.2, 2007, grey metallic with charcoal trim, 21000 miles, £3495, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

CHRYSLER

PT CRUISER, 2006, blue metallic with grey, 35000 miles, £4995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

PT CRUISER, km53tzb, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, heated seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:12, red, 39500 miles, £5995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CITROEN

XSARA Picasso, 07/2007, a/con pas remote c/locking radio/cd player electric windows electrocdor mirrors, metallic red, 10, 550 miles, £6495, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

DAEWOO

LEGANZA, cdx auto, 1998, silver, 80000 miles, £1495, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIAT

GRANDE PUNTO, gd08axs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, remote locking, summer sale reduction was, blue, 7500 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2, 2002, burnt orange, 52651 miles, £1995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 2004, met blue, 50234 miles, £3995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FORD

FOCUS, Ghia, 02 52, ford focus 2.0i ghia estate, 40500 miles only, full service history, climate air conditioning, full leather trim, full electrics, heated seats, remote cdl etc, moonduist silver metallic, vgc, brand new met aut 2010 (no advisories), tax doc '09 tel 07531 141008, moonduist silver, £3750, Stephen Mills, Maidstone, 07531 141008 (PRIVATE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr - PRIVACY GLASS & 16 ALLOYS, oe08of, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, extra seats, foglights, front armrest, radio, remote locking, radio/cd, silver, 25500 miles, £11695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 2.0TDCi Titanium 5dr, ek58xl, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, remote locking, radio/cd, insurance group:10, red, 5806 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 1998, green, 86786 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, lx, 1998, met green, 61000 miles, £800, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

ESCORT, 2000, blue, 75000 miles, £1295, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia Automatic, 2006, moonduist silver, 10000 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 39400 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, vision, 1500 miles, £11795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2003, metropolis blue, 51800 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.4TDCi Zetec, 2009, vision, 3000 miles, £12495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Style Climate, 2007, ocean blue, 14957 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.6 TDCi, 2006, tango red, 1700 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, avalon, 1000 miles, £11495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, moonduist silver, 2000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 17586 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Ghia, 2007, moonduist silver, 14000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8TDCi LX, 2006, jeans, 25000 miles, £8295, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6i Zetec climate 16v, 2007, metallic silver with grey/black, 32000 miles, £6495, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FOCUS, LX 1.8 TDCi 115 PS, 2007, blue metallic with charcoal, 50000 miles, £5995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.8TDCi Zetec Climate, 2007, moonduist silver, 13137 miles, £9795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Ti-VCT Zetec Climate, 2006, tango red, 44768 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FOCUS, LX 1596cc 5 door, 2004, central locking driver's airbag history check immobiliser electric windows, blue, 44250 miles, £4650, Sittingbourne, 01795 476222 (TRADE)

FOCUS C-MAX, 2006, tango red, 32000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr [6] - ZETEC SPORTS PACK, gl57ws, zetec sports pack abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, side airbags, spoiler, all the belchmabers 01474 537 537, insurance group:77, blue, 21979 miles, £11995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Titanium 5dr, gm08kc, multichanger, 15903 miles, £15000, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.6 TDCi Zetec Climate, 2006, jeans, 33000 miles, £7795, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, Plus 1.4, 2006, tonic, 28000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, moonduist silver, 16000 miles, £6995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], nb08bz, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:11, silver, 15522 miles, £15990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Zetec 5dr Auto [140], nb08lj, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control, insurance group:11, silver, 15522 miles, £15990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

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MONDEO, ZETEC 2.0 TDCi 130 ESTATE 6 SPD diesel, 2003, met red, 0 miles, £2995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

STREETKA, 1.6i ICE Roadster, 2006, metallic ice silver with black leather, 28000 miles, £6495, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Connect T200 75ps 1.8Tcdi, 2007, white with grey, 37000 miles, £4995, Strood, 01634 296688 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, 2.5 MINIBUS WITH HYDROLIC RAMP 1996, white, 100122 miles, £995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Double Cab Dropside Tdi 100ps (DRW), ap58xrh, 100 ps, double cab, max weight 3500 kg, electric windows, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp-i-leasing, lwb, warranty, warrantied mileage, 6 seater, please call steve wales in our commercial department, white, 72 miles, £114495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van Tdi 85ps, bf07nmr, 85 ps, panel van, max weight 100 kg, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp-i-leasing, ply lined, swb, warranty, warrantied mileage, white, 28384 miles, £8699, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, C/Dab Tipper Tdi 90ps (DRW), nd55ozp, tipper, finance available, full dealer facilities, tow bar, white, 16100 miles, £8990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Ex/F Luton Tdi 115ps (DRW), na55uzd, luton van, full dealer facilities, tail lift, white, 66000 miles, £8795, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Tipper Tdi 90ps DRW, nd06ife, full dealer facilities, white, 47000 miles, £8495, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Medium Roof Van Tdi 85ps, wg07pnk, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp-i-leasing, ply lined, warranty, 3 seater, white, 26000 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van L Tddi, g09smc, panel van, c/d player, remote locking, finance available, full dealer facilities, pc, swb, white, 50 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, LWB High Roof Van 2.4TDCi T350, wr56uww, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp-i-leasing, lwb, pc, ply lined, white, 40211 miles, £3995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van L Tddi, g09smc, panel van, c/d player, remote locking, finance available, full dealer facilities, pc, swb, white, 50 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, LWB High Roof Van 2.4TDCi T350, wr56uww, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp-i-leasing, lwb, pc, ply lined, white, 40211 miles, £3995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

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TRANSIT, Low Roof Van L Tddi, g09smc, panel van, c/d player, remote locking, finance available, full dealer facilities, pc, swb, white, 50 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, LWB High Roof Van 2.4TDCi T350, wr56uww, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp-i-leasing, lwb, pc, ply lined, white, 40211 miles, £3995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van L Tddi, g09smc, panel van, c/d player, remote locking, finance available, full dealer facilities, pc, swb, white, 50 miles, £7995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, LWB High Roof Van 2.4TDCi T350, wr56uww, panel van, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp-i-leasing, lwb, pc, ply lined, white, 40

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Chemistry

Closing date: Friday 14 August 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 884402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns
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Ref: P0654

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
18.5 hours per week

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Ref: P0653

Salary: £20,700 - £29,622 pro rata
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Closing date: Wednesday 19 August 2009

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Career Opportunities

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09/45

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Lecturer Health & Social Care

07/81

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Lecturer Play Work/Early years

09/41

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08/42

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Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based

01/144

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Lecturer Key Skills

07/30

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Lecturer Electrical Installation

09/26

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S/HE/GD

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International Manager

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College Receptionist

R1

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Night Cleaners

09/22

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Closing Date: 2nd August 2009

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Please contact the Personnel Department for an application form:

Cheesemans Farmhouse, Alland Grange Lane, Manston, Kent, CT12 5BZ
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Tel: 01732 522700 Email:

quest_school@btconnect.com

Closing date for applications: 27th July 2009

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Please quote ref: KOS08

Closing date: 12 noon on Tuesday 4th August 2009

west kent
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CRICKET

BY GLENN PEARSON

Kent League Division Five

Bapchild 1st XI v Offham 1st XI

A STUNNING spell of 7 for 20 from left-arm seamer Matt Roche paved the way to a 114-run win for Bapchild against Offham.

With the majority of the wickets across Kent being slow and low as a result of the heavy rain that flooded the county the previous day, Bapchild proved to be no different as runs were hard to come by.

Having won the toss, Offham unsurprisingly inserted the home side and were rewarded almost instantly when Leonard Watt picked up opener Ricky Dale for just three.

Lee Taylor (36) and skipper Ben Fulton (23) helped steady the ship for the Swale side before Graham Razezy came on first change and the tide began to turn. He picked both Taylor and Fulton and then Alan Hampton for 17.

Adam Larking looked well set and hit 39 at number five, but Razezy continued his fine spell by claiming the wicket of Lee Cogger.

Wicketkeeper John Heatley scored a battling unbeaten 35 to ensure Bapchild would record a competitive total as they ended on 180 all out with eight balls to spare. Razezy was the pick of the Offham attack with figures of 5 for 41.

It proved to be good enough as Offham struggled against an attack that included Roche in inspired form. He bowled 13 overs off the reel to claim 7 for 20 as only two Offham batsmen managed to record double figures. Alex Ward took 1 for 5 from six overs as Offham capitulated to 66 all out.

Devastating Roche spell leaves Offham floundering



ANOTHER ONE BITES THE DUST: Matt Roche celebrates as he cuts through Offham's batsmen on his way to a stunning spell of 7 for 20

SCOREBOARD

Bapchild

	Runs
Lee Taylor ct T Gittings b Razezy	36
Ricky Dale ct B Gittings b Watt	3
Ben Fulton ct Hallbrook b Razezy	23
Alan Hampton ct Brooker b Razezy	17
Adam Larking ct T Gittings b B Gittings	39
Lee Cogger ct T Gittings b Razezy	1
John Heatley not out	35
Dave Wassell b Razezy	1
Alex Ward ct Razezy b B Gittings	0
Matthew Roche b B Gittings	0
Joshua Hunt b Blakeburn	10

Extras (6b 5lb 2w 2nb)	15
Total (all out, 48.3 overs)	180

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Leonard Watt	13	5	34	1
Phil Blakeburn	8.3	1	47	1
Graham Razezy	15	3	41	5
Simon Hallbrook	5.3	1	20	0
Mervyn Brooker	2	0	11	0
Ben Gittings	4	0	16	3

Offham

	Runs
Leonard Watt ct Dale b Roche	16
Tom Gittings b Ward	0
Ben Gittings ct Hunt b Roche	20
Lawrence Bell b Roche	8
Mervyn Brooker run out	0
Nathan Faulkes not out	9
Graham Razezy b Roche	2
Phil Blakeburn ct Larking b Hampton	5
Nathan Brooker lbw b Roche	3
Daniel Kent b Roche	0
Simon Hallbrook b Roche	1

Extras (2b)	2
Total (all out, 39.2 overs)	66

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Joshua Hunt	5	2	9	0
Alex Ward	6	4	5	1
Alan Hampton	15	5	30	1
Matthew Roche	13.2	5	20	7

LOCAL CRICKET ROUND-UP

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

Linden Park 1st XI v Minster 1st XI

MINSTER leapfrogged Linden Park and moved to within eight points of league leaders Upchurch after a six-wicket victory at the weekend.

After inserting the opposition, Minster's bowlers ripped through the Linden Park batting line-up to bowl them out for 135 with South African Nathan Nichol claiming 4 for 46 and Callum Hughes 3 for 34.

The Sheppey side lost two quick wickets, but a match-winning unbeaten 91 from Kevin Barker saw the islanders home inside 28 overs.

Linden Park

Runs		Runs
Tom Williams	.ct Duggan b Nichol.	6
Kevin Anson	.ct Barker b White.	0
Alexander McDonald	.ct Duggan b Nichol.	18
Rob Prastka	.ct Nichol b White.	13
Stuart Clarke	.ct Barker b Hughes	2
Abhijit Kale	.ct Nichol b Hammond.	55
Brian Gasking	.ct Weller b Nichol.	1
John Harvey	.lbw b Hughes.	8
Neil Penfold	.ct Barker b Nichol.	5
Ryan Taylor-Dennehy	.b Hughes.	10
James Saunders	.not out.	4
Extras	(12w 1nb)	13
Total	(all out, 36.4 overs).	135

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Nathan Nichol	15	2	46	4
James White	10	1	36	2
Kevin Barker	2	0	15	0
Callum Hughes	7.4	0	34	3
Martin Hammond	2	1	4	1

Minster

	Runs
Andy Hosken	lbw b Harvey 19
Jordan Weller	st Saunders b Gasking 5
Kevin Barker	not out 91
George Duggan	lbw b Harvey 0
Neil Hosken	ct Saunders b Taylor-Dennehy 3
Lee Thwaites	not out 1
Craig O'Donoghue	did not bat
James White	did not bat
Nathan Nichol	did not bat
Callum Hughes	did not bat
Martin Hammond	did not bat
Extras	(15w 2nb) 17
Total	(4 wickets, 27.5 overs) 137

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Brian Gasking	8	2	41	1
John Harvey	11	1	50	2
Abhijit Kale	4	0	17	0
Ryan Taylor-Dennehy	2.5	0	15	1
Neil Penfold	2	0	14	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION THREE

OD CUACO 1st XI v Upchurch 1st XI

AFTER leading the division for the entire season, Upchurch's lead at the top has been cut to just eight points as they suffered a six-wicket defeat.

The leaders were bowled out for a disappointing 115 inside 40 overs, but it could have been worse had it not been for a 30-run partnership for the final wicket between Daniel Overbury (19 not out) and Tim Mullis (18). Andrew Shirley top scored with 24.

The home side lost an early wicket claimed by Craig Bewick, but they chased the target down inside 24 overs.

Upchurch

	Runs
Lee Taylor	ct White b Stuart 4
Andrew Shirley	b O'Rourke 24
Steve Parker	ct White b Smedley 0
Michael Hales jnr	ct Stuart b Smedley 1
Marc Bond	b Stuart 14
Daniel Parker	ct Rifan b O'Rourke 0
Dean Headley	b Stuart 2
Adam Hodder	ct Dickenson b Smedley 0
Craig Bewick	ct Stuart b Ainger 3
Daniel Overbury	not out 19
Tim Mullis	ct Dickenson b Rifan 18
Extras	(2b 9lb 18w 1nb) 30
Total	(all out, 39.2 overs) 115

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Patrick O'Rourke	15	3	42	2
Sam Stuart	12	2	28	3
Tim Smedley	8	1	19	3
Andrew Ainger	4	1	15	1
Mohammed Rifan	0.2	0	0	1

OD CUACO

	Runs
Greg White	ct Hales jnr b Bewick..... 6
Nilesh Patel	ct Hales jnr b Hodder..... 13
Mohammed Rifan	ct Shirley b Hales jnr..... 38
Stuart Dickenson	lbw b Hales jnr..... 23
Aaron White	not out..... 24
Patrick O'Rourke	not out..... 7
Peter White	did not bat.....
David Mew	did not bat.....
Tim Smedley	did not bat.....
Andrew Ainger	did not bat.....
Sam Stuart	did not bat.....
Extras	(5w)..... 5
Total	(4 wickets, 23.3 overs)..... 116

Bowlers	O	M	R	W
Marc Bond	4	1	13	0
Craig Bewick	3	1	8	1
Adam Hodder	7	0	46	1
Michael Hales jnr	7	0	29	2
Daniel Parker	1.3	0	11	0
Daniel Overbury	1	0	9	0

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

Ashford Town 3rd XI v Rodmersham 1st XI

RODMERSHAM picked up the final wicket they needed for victory in the penultimate over to complete a routine 134-run against struggling Ashford.

Wicketkeeper Liam Foster smashed a superb 113 at number three for the villagers, with opener Dave Cogger hitting a measured 52. Several other Rodmersham batters got going, but didn't register a big score, however it was enough to set a target of 286.

Fast bowler Sandeep Rodrigo claimed 3 for 33 and Nazoomi Azhar 3 for 25 as the league's bottom side were bowled out for 151.

Rodmersham

		Runs
Dave Cogger	ct Owen b Watson	52
Robert Horne	ct Owen b Bailey	14
Liam Foster	ct Owen b Sardo	113
Sandeep Rodrigo	ct Tanner b Sardo	14
Sushant Karangutkar	ct Tanner b Cooper	17
Lee Jackson	ct Cooper b Watson	19
Darren Nokes	ct Owen b Cooper	6
Jamie Horne	b Watson	6
Nazoomi Azhar	not out	8
Karl Reeves	run out	0
Jack Bayford	ct Owen b Bailey	0
Extras	(16b 4lb 10w 6nb)	36
Total	(all out, 48.3 overs)	285

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Luca Sardo	12	1	64	2
Alex Watson	15	1	50	3
Thomas Bailey	7.3	0	46	2
Darren Cooper	8	0	73	2
Steve Tanner	6	0	32	0

Ashford Town

		Runs
Howard Wooding	.b Bayford	15
Dean Clark	.ct Rodrigo b Karangutkar	38
Jack Wilson	.b Azhar	0
Alex Watson	.ct Rodrigo b Bayford	9
Joseph Jolley	.lbw b Karangutkar	3
Thomas Bailey	.ct Azhar b Rodrigo	4
Toby Owen	.b Rodrigo	2
Luca Sardo	.b Azhar	14
Steve Tanner	.ct Bayford b Rodrigo	18
Rory MacLeod	.ct Bayford b Azhar	1
Darren Cooper	.not out	27
Extras	(11b 6w)	17
Total	(all out, 49 overs)	151

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Sandeep Rodrigo	13	3	33	3
Darren Nokes	12	3	44	0
Nazoomi Azhar	12	4	25	3
Jack Bayford	6	1	17	2
Sushant Karangutkar	6	1	21	2

KENT LEAGUE DIVISION FIVE

Macknade 1st XI v Old Brockleians 1st XI

PHIL Rowcroft's 64 helped Macknade on their way to a narrow two-wicket win against Old Brockleians.

After choosing to bat, the visitors were unable to get away as the Macknade bowlers reduced them to 168 for 5 from their 50 overs with the whole bowling unit contributing.

In reply, Macknade opener Rowcroft hit 64 at the top of the innings to set the tone as he and Scott Davenport (31) put on a valuable 56-run partnership.

But a flurry of wickets at the end made for a tense finale, but the Faversham side came through with more than 11 overs to spare.

Old Brockleians

	Runs
Danny Hazelton	lbw b Dear 29
Braam Alberts	lbw b Jarrett 10
Oilly Barnes	ct Dear b Cook 43
Sam Gardiner	ct Smith b Dear 22
Greg McLean	not out 43
Paul Klingels	run out 2
Nick Fifield	not out 6
Devon Carr	did not bat
Andy Cripps	did not bat
Simon Vadgama	did not bat
Mark Vadgama	did not bat
Extras	(5b 3lb 3w 2nb) 13
Total	(5 wickets, 50 overs) 168

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
James Jarrett	10	3	34	1
Kaylem Short	10	1	38	0
Darryl Cook	15	1	48	1
Will Dear	15	5	45	2

Macknade

		Runs
Phil Rowcroft	ct Vadgama b Barnes	64
Kaylem Short	lbw b Cripps	12
Andrew Machin	lbw b Cripps	0
Scott Davenport	ct Vadgama b Barnes	31
Steve Taylor	b Carr	12
Chris Smith	lbw b Barnes	0
Vince Taylor	c & b Barnes	14
Ian Juniper	lbw b Cripps	6
Will Dear	not out	4
Darryl Cook	not out	4
James Jarrett	did not bat	
Extras	(6b 10lb 8w 1nb)	25
Total	(8 wickets, 38.1 overs)	172

Bowlers

	O	M	R	W
Devon Carr	12.1	2	46	1
Andy Cripps	15	2	70	3
Oilly Barnes	11	1	40	4

Squad rip up the record book at sprint gala

SWIMMING

FAVERSHAM Swimming Club snatched an impressive second place at the Home Development One Length Sprint Gala.

Faversham's squad broke three of their own records with Lily Jarvis Keysell recording a time of 24.76 seconds in the ladies under-18 backstroke, Emily Westlake swimming one-length breaststroke in 25.20 and Emma Wenn an impressive 21.80 in the under-18 butterfly section.

Eight of the town's swimmers picked up first-place medals at the gala, which was won by Dover, while Faversham also won three events in the team category.

Scott Kendall was the big winner on the day as he scooped the under-15s breaststroke, under-18s freestyle and under-15s butterfly, while Lily Jarvis Keysell, Tom Aylen, Emily Westlake, Emma Wenn, Tom Pearce, Ben Collins and James Guthrie all finished in first place. Nine of the club's swimmers also did well by picking up second-place finishes,



while eight squad members were also on the podium having finished third.

Swimmers beating their own personal best times were Flora Westlake, James Guthrie,

Sophie Wood, Marty Boorman, Bridie Matthews, Joanne Hawkins and Ben Collins.

Faversham beat Hythe, Folkestone, Black Lion and Ashford to second place.

FOOTBALL



WILL HE, WON'T HE? Brickies boss Gary Abbott

Abbott waiting for young stopper to sign on dotted line

SITTINGBOURNE boss Gary Abbott is hoping to tie up a deal with goalkeeper Daren Ibrahim in the next few weeks to help solve a problem between the sticks for the Brickies.

Having lost Matt Reed at the end of last season, Abbott has been on the look out for a new shot stopper.

Ibrahim has impressed during the Brickies' pre-season campaign, but is yet to decide on a move away from Dartford where he is fourth-choice goalkeeper.

Abbott is keen to keep the youngster, but faces an anxious wait to hear whether he will be signing before the start of the season.

After last weekend's morale-boosting 1-0 victory at home to Dover Athletic, Abbott's side have been stepping up their pre-season schedule with wins against Erith Town and on Saturday against Hythe Town.

The Brickies beat Erith Town 3-1 thanks to goals from Hicham Akhazzan, Jon Neal and Martin Henry, while trialist Ben Viadom netted at the weekend in a 1-0 win against Hythe.

In a poor first half, former Dulwich Hamlet defender Femi Omogbehin was called upon to clear off the line when Aiden Pursglove rounded Ibrahim and shot in the 13th minute.

In front of a crowd of just 64, the Brickies took the lead shortly after half-time, when Akhazzan slipped the ball to Viadom who turned before smashing past former Sittingbourne keeper Danny Twyman.

Ibrahim prevented Hythe getting back into the game when he was quick off his line to thwart Dave Cook, while the Hythe Town midfielder should have given his side a share of the spoils in the 86th minute, but could only shoot wide.

Sittingbourne return to action on Saturday when they entertain Ryman Premier side Hastings United at Bourne Park. Kick-off is at 3pm.



BIG CHANCE: Striker Carl Rook, who has hit almost 50 goals for Tonbridge in two seasons, was given the chance to impress at League One side Brighton & Hove Albion last week

Rook buoyed by Brighton trial whatever the result

CARL Rook feels his trial at Brighton & Hove Albion has already made him a better player and raised his hopes of becoming a full-time professional.

The 26-year-old from Sittingbourne caught the Seagulls' eye after netting almost 50 goals in two seasons for Tonbridge Angels.

He was offered the chance to impress in training last week and is expected to be given a chance to show what he can do in one of the League One club's pre-season friendlies next week.

Unlike many talented non-league players, Rook did not spend time in an academy during

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

his schooldays, but even after only a few days he felt he had learned a lot.

"It's good to see how they live", he said. "I'm already looking after myself differently after seeing how the professionals train and that can only be a good thing. You see how much water they are told to drink, it's so much more than I would do normally. We tried Pilates for the first time which was an eye-opener."

Competition for places is stiff. Brighton have at least half a dozen other strikers on trial,

including former Bolton forward Michael Ricketts, who won a senior England cap.

Despite having the odds stacked against Rook, who is a full-time scaffolder, such a move would not be unprecedented. Leon Legge joined Brentford from Tonbridge this summer, while Dartford forward Cody MacDonald was bought by Norwich in February.

Rook said: "Maybe it's the credit crunch forcing clubs to look into non-league. To get off the scaffold and become a full-time professional I would give 120 per cent and maybe I'd have a bit more hunger than someone who had come through an academy. It's win-win really - if it doesn't work out other clubs might be looking at me and the worst case scenario is I go back to Tonbridge, where I really enjoy it."

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